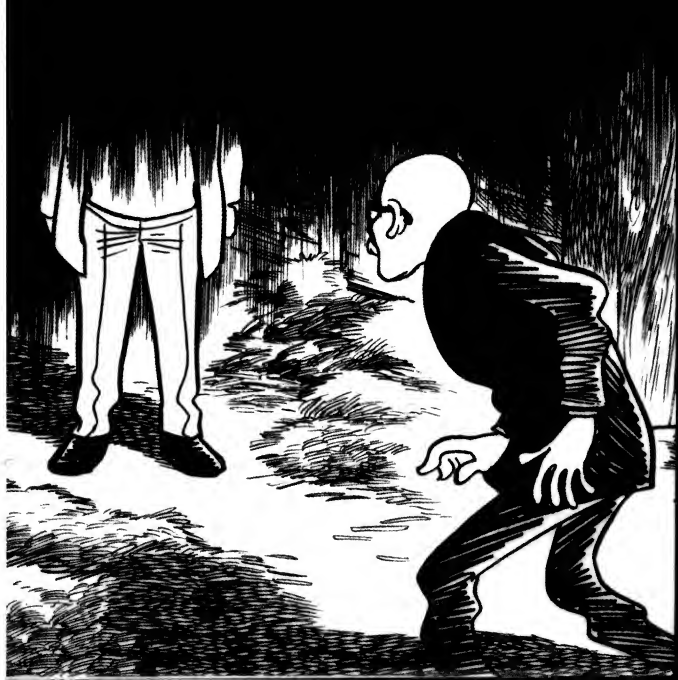




"*Ode to Kirihito* is moving, tender and engrossing.
Also very, very odd."
—Neil Gaiman,
author of *The Sandman* and *Anansi Boys*

"Tezuka turns his comic book mastery to evil in this terrifying examination of moral decay. Fans of Japanese horror both new and old should not miss this shocking single volume that will completely change Tezuka's American reputation as the Japanese Walt Disney. Brutal, depraved and savage, *Kirihito* will leave you panting like a beaten dog-man."
—Andrew D. Arnold, *Time* comics critic

"A thoroughly original, wonderfully bizarre, and compulsively readable masterwork. *Ode to Kirihito* is a vital testament to Tezuka's range as an artist, as well as an awe-inspiring example of the possibilities of the graphic novel."
—Adrian Tomine,
writer/artist of *Optic Nerve* and *Summer Blonde*

"Tezuka was like a god for me. He created a world of comics that didn't exist before. He shocked the manga world with the medical thriller genre, and the work he did it with was *Ode to Kirihito*—a monumental suspense masterpiece."
—Yoshihiro Tatsumi,
author of *The Push-Man* and *Abandon the Old in Tokyo*

Cover design by Chip Kidd

Vertical, Inc., Publisher, New York
www.vertical-inc.com

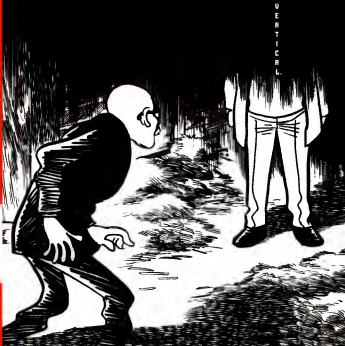
Printed in the U.S.A.

OSAMU
TEZUKA

手塚治虫

ODE
TO
KIRIHITO

VERTICAL



AGE
16+



C O N T E N T S

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7

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3/ THE FIRST SYMPTOMS

77

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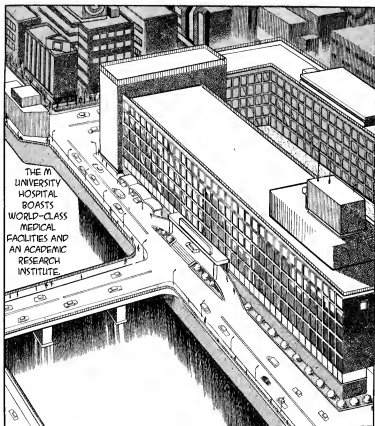
20/ PROGNOSIS

803

ODE TO KIRIHITO

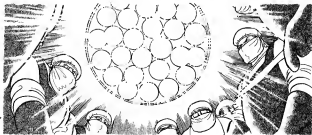
CHAPTER 1

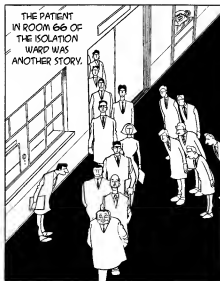
R O O M 6 6



THE M
UNIVERSITY
HOSPITAL
BOASTS
WORLD-CLASS
MEDICAL
FACILITIES AND
AN ACADEMIC
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE.

IT ATTRACTS
PATIENTS
FROM ALL
OVER THE
WORLD AND
NEVER FAILS
TO MEET
THEIR HIGH
EXPECTATIONS.



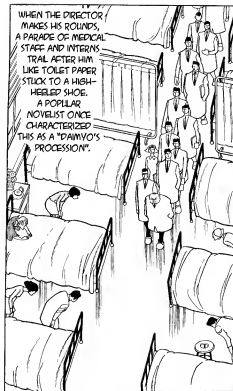


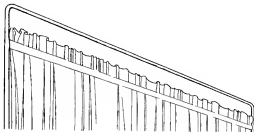
DIRECTOR
TATSUGAURA
OF THE
FIRST
DEPART-
MENT OF
INTERNAL
MEDICINE



AND
HIS
STAFF









DR. OSANAI,
WILL YOU
SHUT YOUR
MOUTH?
IT'S A WASTE
OF TIME TO
EXPLAIN THE
SYMPTOMS
TO THE
JUNIOR
STAFF.



I SUPPOSE YOU
THINK THAT
CURRYING FAVOR
WITH THAT RAGGLE
WILL RAISE YOUR
POPULARITY IN THE
DEPARTMENT?

I
APOLO-
GIZE.



DIRECTOR,
I ASSURE
YOU THAT DR.
OSANAI IS JUST
BEING KIND.
I SHOULD KNOW;
WE WENT TO
GRADE
SCHOOL
TOGETHER.



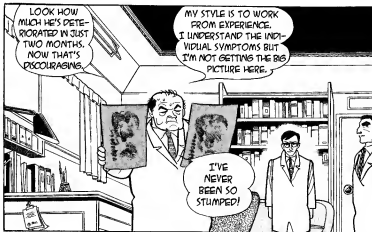
HERE ARE
THE X-RAYS
OF THE
HYPOPHYSIS
THAT WE
TOOK
WHEN HE
WAS FIRST
ADMITTED



LOOK HOW
MUCH HE'S DETE-
RIORATED IN JUST
TWO MONTHS.
NOW THAT'S
DISCOURAGING.

MY STYLE IS TO WORK
FROM EXPERIENCE.
I UNDERSTAND THE INDI-
VIDUAL SYMPTOMS BUT
I'M NOT GETTING THE BIG
PICTURE HERE.

I'VE
NEVER
BEEN SO
STUMPED!

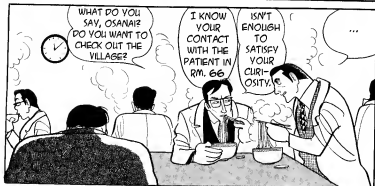




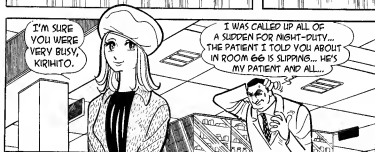
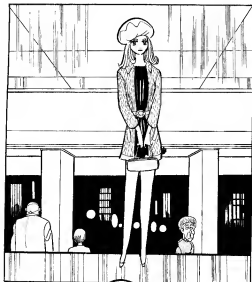
YOU
POSTULATE
THAT THE
PATIENT
SUFFERS

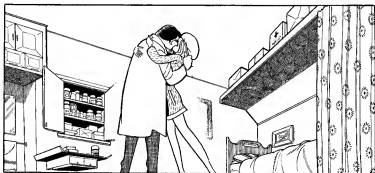














THAT
DR. URABE...



HE LOOKS
AT ME
ALL FUNNY...



URABE
?!





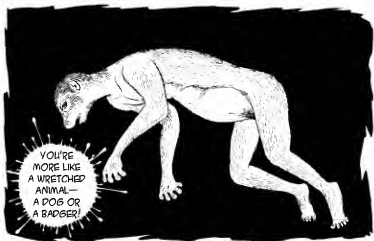
A CERTAIN
REGION OF
SHIKOKU ISLAND
HAS HAD LEGENDS
OF DOG SPIRITS
AND MAGICAL
BADGERS...
YOU'VE HEARD
OF THEM?



APPARENTLY, THE SOURCE OF
THOSE LEGENDS IS THIS STRANGE DISEASE.
IT ONLY OCCURS IN ONE LITTLE VILLAGE
IN THE MOUNTAINS...

ALL OF A SUDDEN, PARTS OF YOUR BODY GO NUMB
AND YOUR BONES BEGIN TO CHANGE SHAPE...
YOUR CHIN SHARPENS, YOUR BACKBONE CURVES,
YOUR LIMBS BECOME STUNTED,
AND YOU CAN NO LONGER WALK UPRIGHT!
IN FACT, YOU NO LONGER
LOOK HUMAN.





YOU'RE
MORE LIKE
A WRETCHED
ANIMAL—
A DOG OR
A BADGER!



FINALLY,
YOU DIE OF
RESPIRATORY
PARALYSIS.

I BELIEVE
IT'S A
SORT OF
ATAVISM...

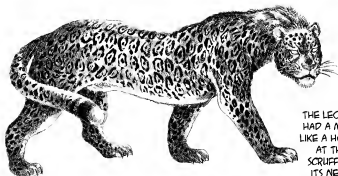


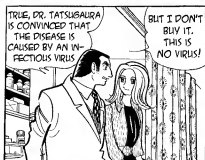
WHAT'S
"ATAVISM"
?



NOW AND THEN,
SOMETHING CAUSES
AN ORGANISM TO
REVERT TO
A LESS EVOLVED
BIOLOGICAL TYPE.

FOR EXAMPLE,
IN RARE CASES,
HUMAN BABIES
ARE BORN
WITH TAILS.







A CAMPHOR
INJECTION!
AND AN
OXYGEN
MASK!



DARLING!
DON'T LEAVE
ME!



PLEASE,
STAY
CALM,
MA'AM.



PULSE 70 AND
ARRHYTHMIC.
D.P. 65.



YOU DIDN'T
SEE THIS
COMING?!



I'M SORRY,
DR. OSANAI.
IT WAS SO
SUDDEN!

THE
CRITICAL
THING IS
TO KEEP
HIM
ALIVE.



MY REPU-
TATION IS
AT STAKE



PLEASE
SAVE HIM,
DOCTOR.



DON'T WORRY.
I PROMISE THAT
WE'LL GET TO
THE BOTTOM
OF THIS.



PLEASE, DON'T
DIE! FOR THE
LOVE OF GOD!





OH
DARLING!
PLEASE
DON'T DIE!

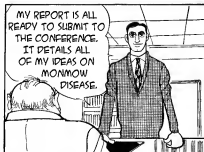






IZUMI!







SO, YOU'RE GOING
DOWN TO SHIKOKU
AFTER ALL?



VLR. DIRECTOR
TATSUGAURA
RECOM-
MENDED IT,
TOO. I'LL
BE BACK
IN A
MONTH.



IT'S JUST
FOR A
MONTH.

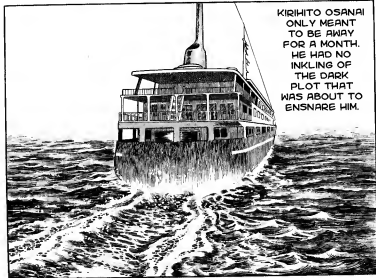


KIRIHITO,
DON'T GO! I
HAVE A TERRIBLE
FEELING YOU'LL
NEVER COME
BACK!

HA
HA
HA
HA
!



THE CONFER-
ENCE IS IN THE
SPRING, AND
AFTER THAT
WE'LL BE
MARRIED!

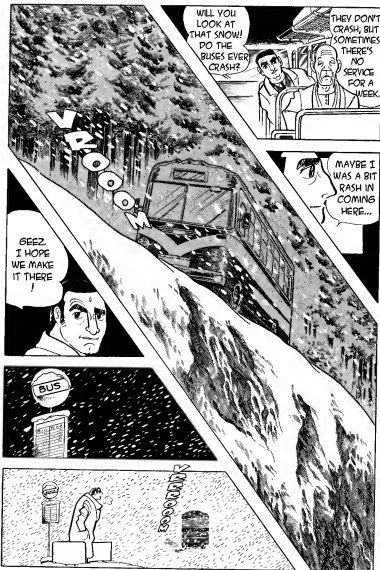


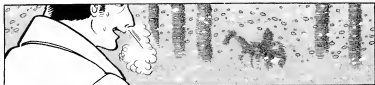
KIRIHITO OSANAI
ONLY MEANT
TO BE AWAY
FOR A MONTH.
HE HAD NO
INKLING OF
THE DARK
PLOT THAT
WAS ABOUT TO
ENSNARE HIM.

CHAPTER 2

DEAD END







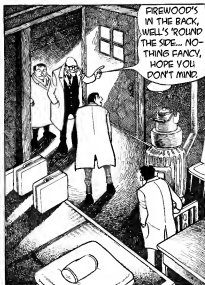


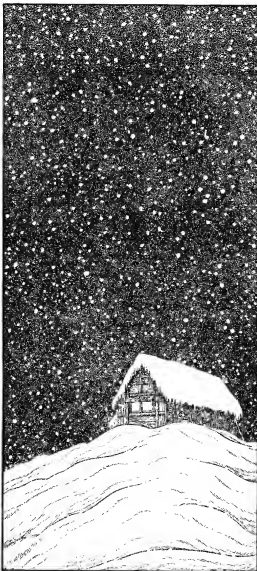














WONDER WHEN
THAT LOCAL
SPECIALTY'S
COMING?



I GUESS
THEY
DINE LATE
HERE.



WONDER IF
THEY'LL CALL
ME TO THE
MAYOR'S
HOUSE OR
BRING IT
HERE?



GEEZ, IT'S
ALREADY
NINE
O'CLOCK!



MAYBE
I HEARD
WRONG OR
SOME-
THING.



I'M STARV-
ING. GUESS
I'LL GO
AHEAD AND
OPEN UP
A CAN OF
SOME-
THING...

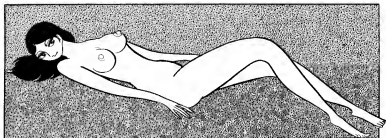


WELL,
GOOD
EVE-
NING
!



...





HUIH?!



ARE YOU
OUT OF
YOUR
MIND?



I GET IT.
IN SOME
REGIONS,
THEY
EXPRESS
HOSPITALITY
THIS WAY.
ARE YOU
THE...?



PUT YOUR
CLOTHES
BACK ON. I'M
REALLY NOT IN
THE MOOD.

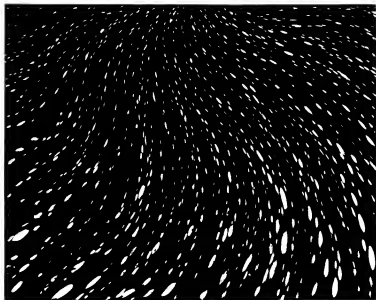
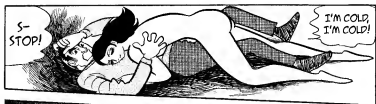


I'M COLD
...



THEN HURRY
UP AND GET
DRESSED! HEY!
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?

I'M
COLD.





YOU
REALLY
SHOULDN'T
HAVE DONE
THAT.

IF WORSE
CAME TO
WORST... WE'D
BOTH BE IN
A REAL BIND.



HEY, THE
SNOW'S
STOPPED
!

IT'S COLD,
BUT THE
FRESH
AIR FEELS
GOOD!

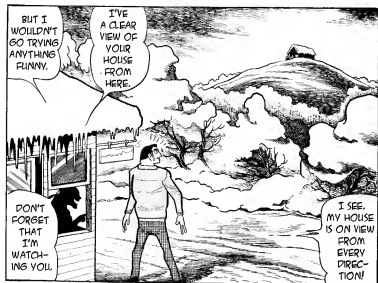


WHAT'S
YOUR
NAME?

TAZU



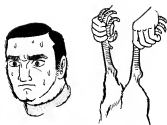






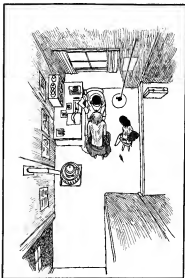


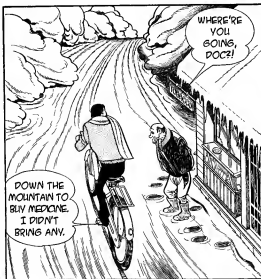


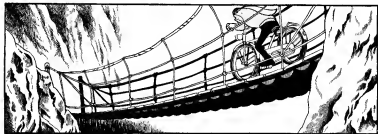
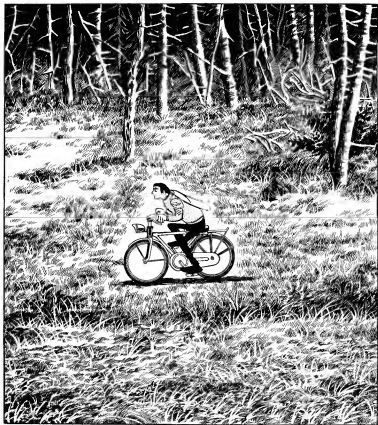
















HEIH
?!



WHAT
DO
YOU
THINK
YOU'RE
...?!



GA-ZZK



YOU'RE
...!!

GA-ZZK













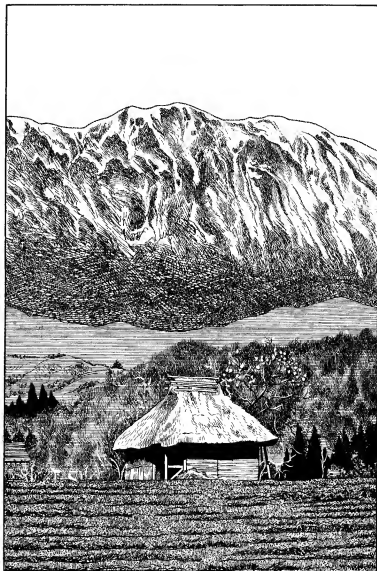
HOW LONG'S HE BEEN HERE?

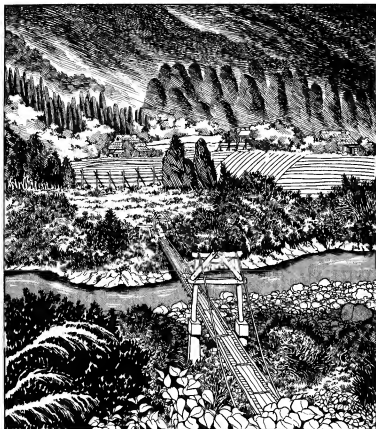


ALL DAY? HE DIDN'T GO OUT TO THE ROPE BRIDGE?

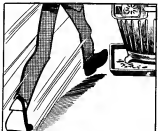




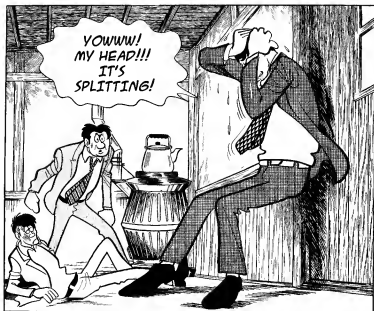












CHAPTER 3

**THE FIRST
SYMPTOMS**







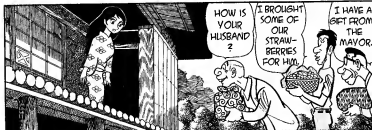
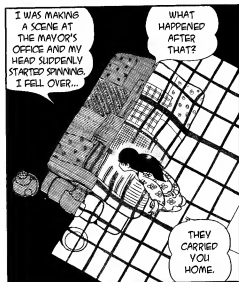


TAZU,
HOW MANY
DAYS
SINCE
I COL-
LAPSED?



FIVE
DAYS.

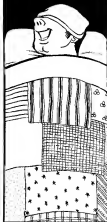
THAT LONG?
I'VE BEEN
UNCON-
SCIOUS...





PERHAPS
THEY THINK
I HAVE
MONMOW
DISEASE?
HA HA HA
HA HA!
WHAT A SILLY
NOTION!
THIS IS JUST
A COLD!

I CAUGHT
A CHILL
BLUNDERING
AROUND
IN THE
SNOW!



NO,
DARLING
...
THIS
ISN'T
A COLD.



THE GREAT
MONMOW
IS INSIDE
OF YOU.



THE GREAT
MONMOW
MOVED
FROM
HIM INTO
YOU.



COME,
NOW,
I'M A
DOCTOR!
I KNOW
MY OWN
BODY!

MONMOW
DISEASE ISN'T
CONTAGIOUS!
IT'S AN
ENDEMIC
ILLNESS! I'M
SURE OF IT!

I'VE ONLY
BEEN HERE
A MONTH!
HOW COULD IT
AFFECT ME THAT
QUICKLY?





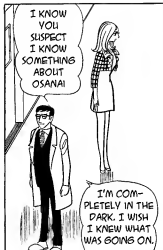




IZUMI
...

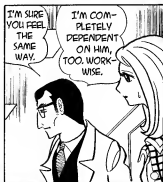


WE
HAVEN'T
HEARD
A WORD
FROM
HIM.



I KNOW
YOU
SUSPECT
I KNOW
SOMETHING
ABOUT
OSANAI

I'M COM-
PLETELY IN THE
DARK. I WISH
I KNEW WHAT
WAS GOING ON.

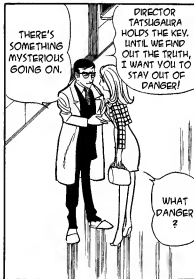


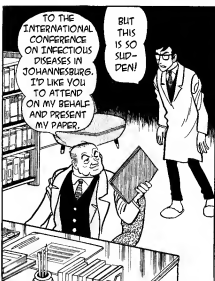
I'M SURE
YOU FEEL
THE
SAME
WAY.

I'M COM-
PLETELY
DEPENDENT
ON HIM,
TOO. WORK-
WISE.



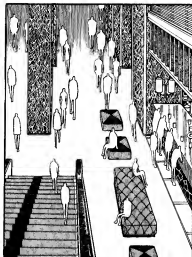
HIS
ABSENCE
MAKES ME
KEENLY
AWARE OF
HOW UN-
TALENTED
I AM.

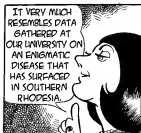


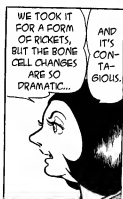


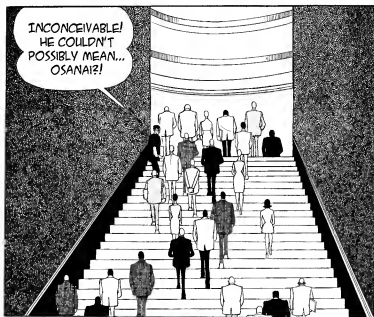


JOHANNESBURG,
SOUTH AFRICA











IN JAPAN,
MONMOW
DISEASE HAS AL-
READY CLAIMED
MORE THAN
200 LIVES.

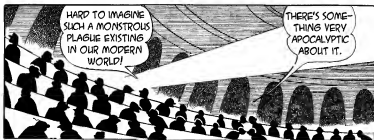


THE OTHER DAY,
ONE OF THESE
PATIENTS DIED AT
OUR HOSPITAL.

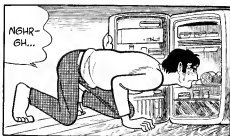


...

HOW
HORRI-
BLE!







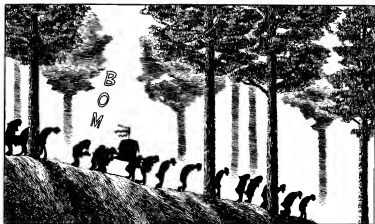




APRIL 13TH
TERRIBLE DIZZINESS,
NAUSEA, AND A STRANGE
HUNGER. I CRAVE MEAT.
RAW MEAT, DRIPPING WITH
BLOOD. I SUPPOSE PRIMI-
TIVE MAN ATE MEAT RAW,
LIKE WILD BEASTS DO. I
HEAR THAT THERE ARE
TRIBES IN CONGO AND NEW
GUINEA THAT STILL EAT ALL
OF THEIR MEAT RAW. WRITING
IS DIFFICULT. MY HANDS ARE
DIFFICULT TO CONTROL.
I STRUGGLE TO FORM
EACH LETTER. PULSE: 85.
BLOOD PRESSURE: 110.
TEMPERATURE: 37.8 C.



APRIL 14TH
TAZU'S FATHER
DIED TODAY.
HIS FACE WHEN HE DIED
WAS THAT OF A DOG.
THE VILLAGERS ARE
CONVINCED THAT
I AM TO BE NEXT.
POOR TAZU.
FOR TAZU'S SAKE, TOO,
I MUST GO ON LIVING.
EVEN IF I BECOME A DOG,
I MUST LIVE!



TAZU, THE DISEASE ISN'T
CONTAGIOUS! IT MUST BE
SOME KIND OF TOXIN, OR
A HORMONAL DISORDER!
IT'S THE RIVER WATER,
OR THE SOIL...

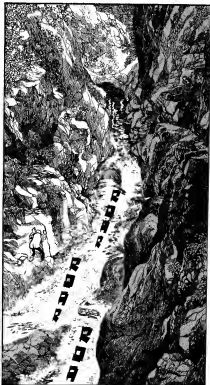
I MUST FIND IT!
I NEED
YOUR HELP!





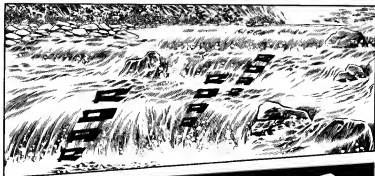
CHAPTER 4

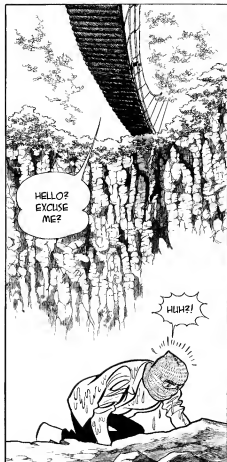
C O L L A P S E



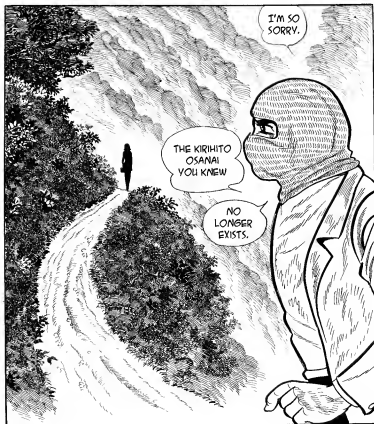




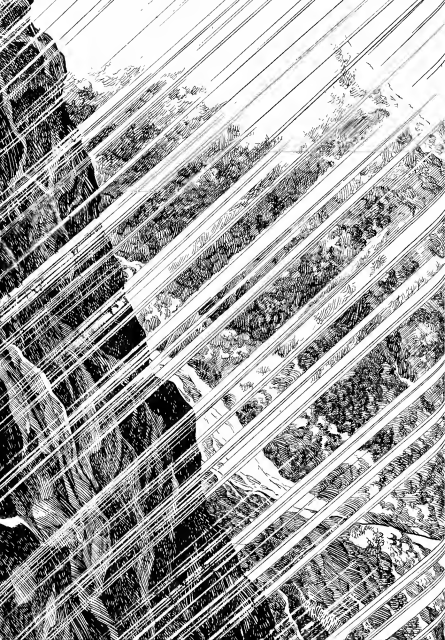


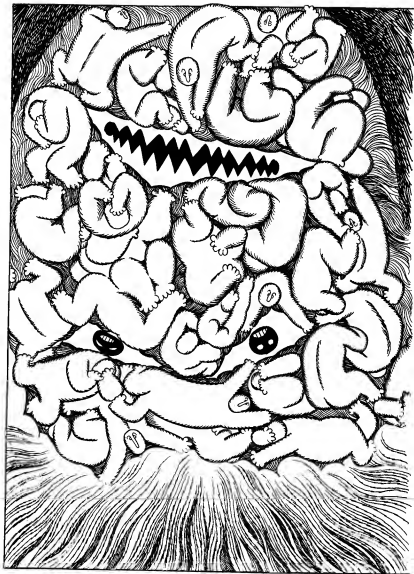




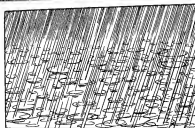
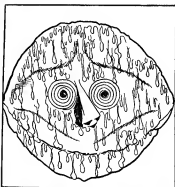
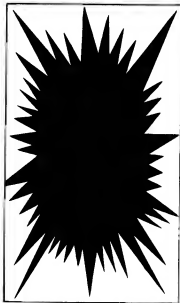


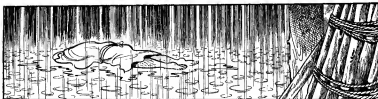
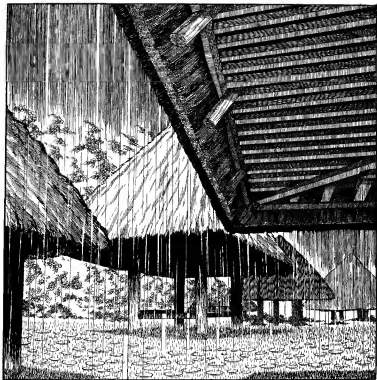














OH... HOW I
SUFFERED!
HOW I WAITED
FOR THIS!
I THOUGHT
I MIGHT START
EATING MUD!!



HAVE I GOT SOME
NEWS! MONMOW OWES
TO THE FACT THAT
THE VILLAGE USES RIVER
WATER, UPSTREAM
FROM HERE...



THERE'S A VERY
OLD GEOLOGI-
CAL STRATUM...
FROM THE PER-
MIAN PERIOD.
THAT UNUSUAL
SOIL MIXES
IN WITH THE
WATER...



THE
SOIL...
HAS
SOME-
THING
IN IT...



DARLING,
WHY
DON'T
YOU
COME
INSIDE?



LET ME BE!
I'M HAPPIER
OUT HERE
IN THE RAIN!

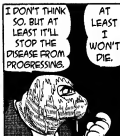


I'M
SORRY.

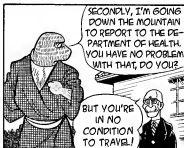
VICTIMS OF
MONMOW ARE
ALL PEOPLE
WHO'VE
DRUNK THAT
WATER!
A HANDFUL
...

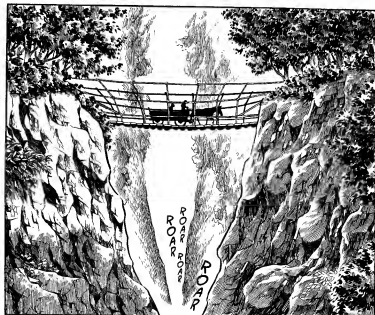
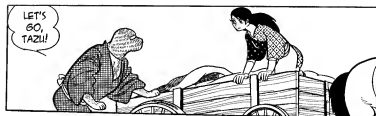


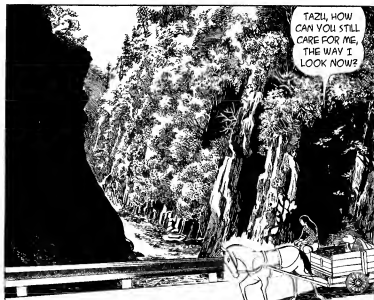


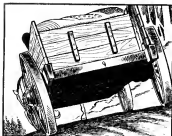


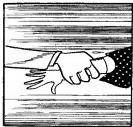














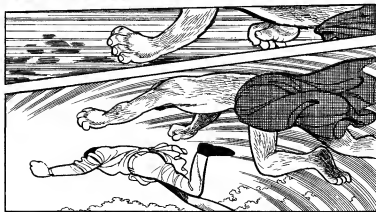
EEEEEEK!



AAAAAH!





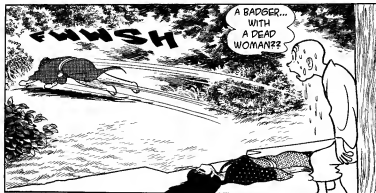
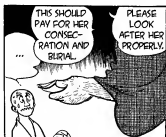
















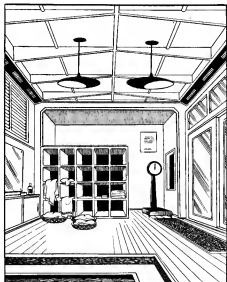


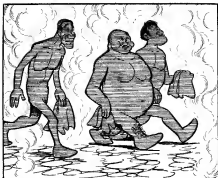
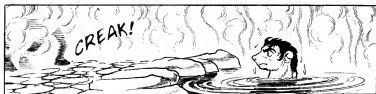




IT'S ME, KIRIHITO OSANAI!

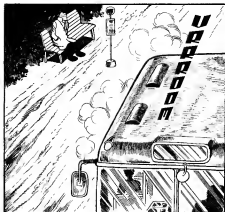












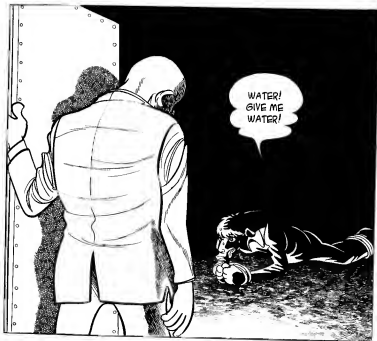


THEY SAID THERE
WAS A GUY WITH
A FACE LIKE A DOG
IN THE BATH
THERE, SIR.

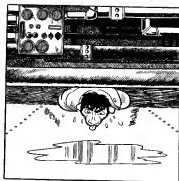
TAKE HIS
BANDAGES
OFF.

INCREDIBLE!
A DOG-MAN!

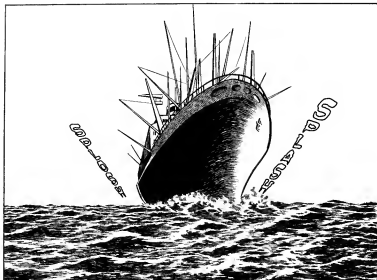


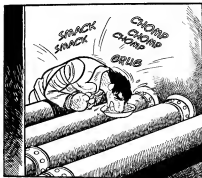


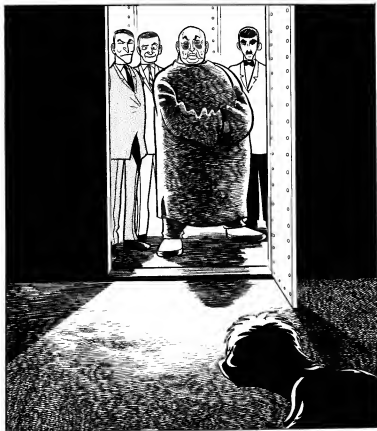




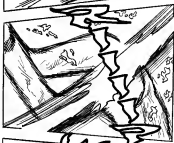


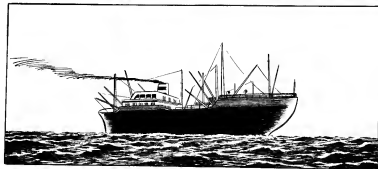












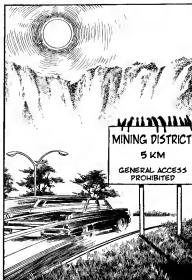
CHAPTER 5

GOLGOTHA HILL

MEANWHILE IN AFRICA, DR. URABE WAS ON HIS WAY TO RHODESIA TO INVESTIGATE THE MYSTERIOUS DISEASE THAT HAD BROKEN OUT AMONG THE REMOTE TRIBES



RHODESIA, HEADWATERS OF THE LIMPOPO RIVER



DR. FERDINAND?



YES?

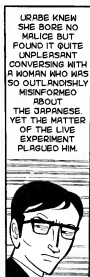


I WORK VERY CLOSELY WITH DIRECTOR TATSUGAURA AT THE UNIVERSITY...

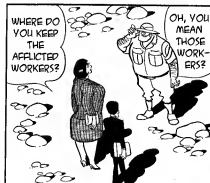


HE NEVER ONCE MENTIONED A LIVE EXPERIMENT.

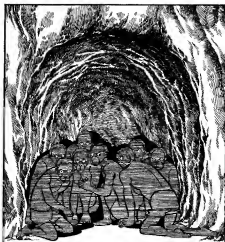






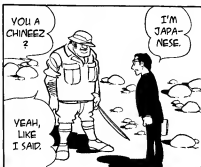






HOW BIZARRE!
WHY WOULD
THE DISEASE
OCCUR IN
SUCH DISTANT
LANDS AS JAPAN
AND AFRICA!

IT
CERTAINLY
DOESN'T
SEEM LIKE A
CONTAGION
!





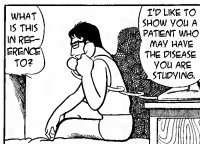


STUNTING AND ATROPHY OF BONE SECTIONS IS MARKED, RESULTING IN DRAMATIC DEFORMATION OF SKULL AND LIMBS, AS WITH PAGET'S DISEASE.

BUT IF MON-MOW DISEASE IS RELATED TO PAGET'S DISEASE, WHY DOES IT STAY IN CERTAIN REGIONS AND NOT SPREAD BEYOND THEM?



DOCTOR? I WANT TO ARRANGE A MEETING, BUT IT MUST BE KEPT SECRET. COME TO THE CORNER OF 32ND ST IN THE WEST DISTRICT.



WHAT IS THIS IN REFERENCE TO?

I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU A PATIENT WHO MAY HAVE THE DISEASE YOU ARE STUDYING.



THANK
YOU FOR
COMING.
MY NAME IS
MCCRA-
CKEN.



YOU SAID A
PATIENT WITH
MON-
MOW
DISEASE ?

BEFORE
I
SHOW YOU



YOU
MUST
PROMISE
NOT
TO TELL
ANY-
ONE.



I CAN'T
PROMISE
ANYTHING
WITHOUT
SEEING THE
PATIENT.

...

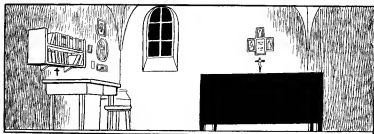


SHOW
ME THE
PATIENT.
FIRST.

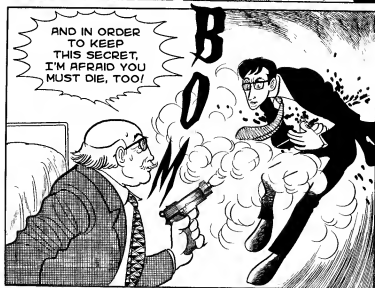
...

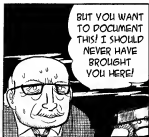


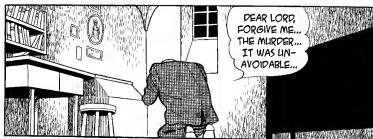
HERE?
IN THE
CONVENT
?

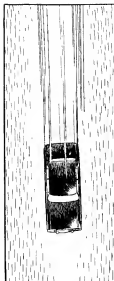




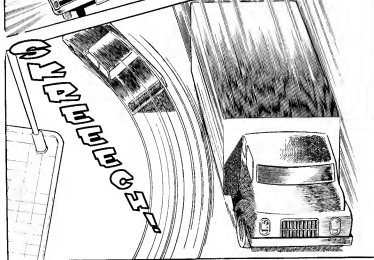


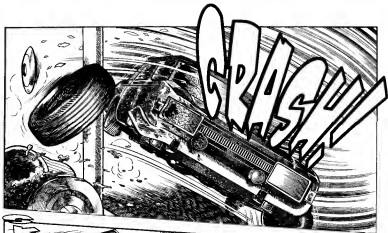




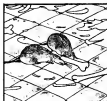










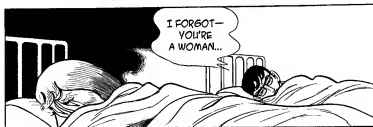




I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE A DOCTOR, TOO? I SAW YOUR PASSPORT.





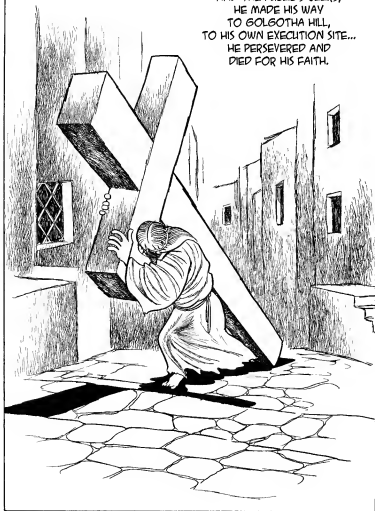




SISTER, I'M NOT A CHRISTIAN, BUT I KNOW THE STORY OF CHRIST'S LIFE! JESUS SAID HE WOULD SUFFER FOR ALL OF HUMANITY! THOSE WERE BRAVE WORDS.



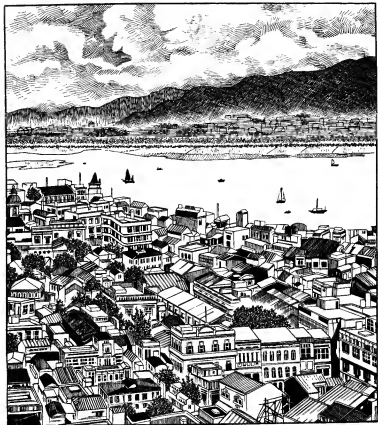
BEARING A CROWN
OF THORNS
AND THE PUBLIC'S JEERS,
HE MADE HIS WAY
TO GOLGOTHA HILL,
TO HIS OWN EXECUTION SITE...
HE PERSEVERED AND
DIED FOR HIS FAITH.



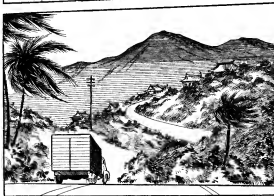
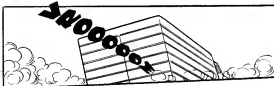


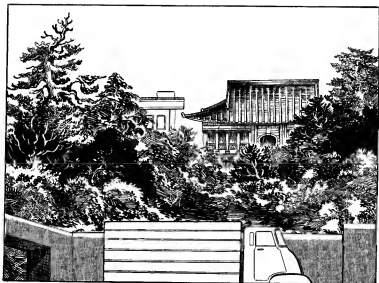
CHAPTER 6

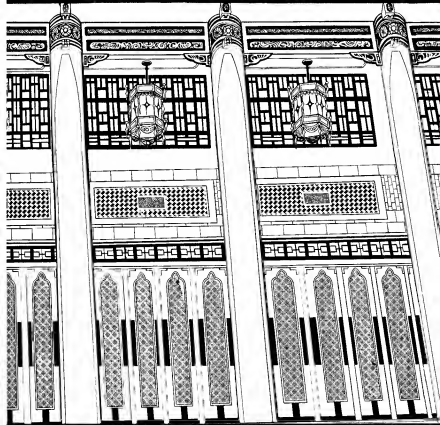
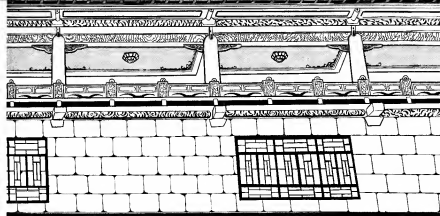
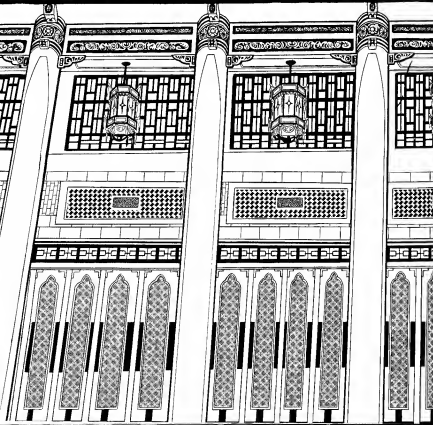
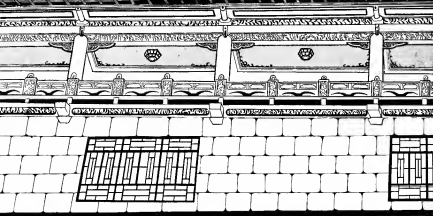
PALACE OF FOLLIES

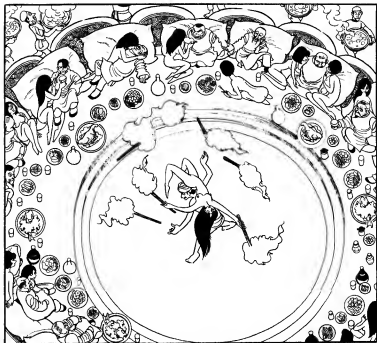


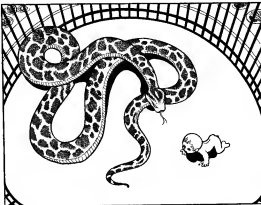


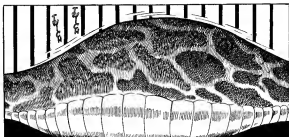












BORING! ALL YOU NEED
IS MONEY TO BUY A
SNAKE AND A BABY.
I WANT TO SEE
SOMETHING THAT EVEN
MONEY CAN'T BUY!



HAH HAH HAH. FINE.
NEXT WEEK I'LL SHOW
YOU SOMETHING
FROM JAPAN
THAT'LL
KNOCK YOU
OFF YOUR
FEET!



ARE YOU
REALLY HUMAN?
CAN YOU SPEAK?
I SPEAK JAPANESE.
IT'S BEST NOT
TO MAKE
TROUBLE HERE.

HAVE I
BEEN SOLD
INTO
SLAVERY?



MASTER MAHN HAS
A VAST FORTUNE OF
HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS
OF YUAN. HE HAS
EVERYTHING HE DESIRES.



AND WHAT
DOES HE
DO HERE
IN THIS
PALACE?



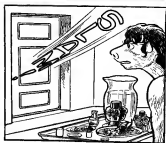


WOW,
YOU'RE
QUITE A
SCHOLAR!











WHEN WE WERE
GOING DOWN
THE MOUNTAIN
TOGETHER...

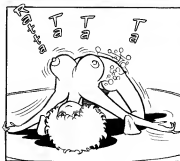
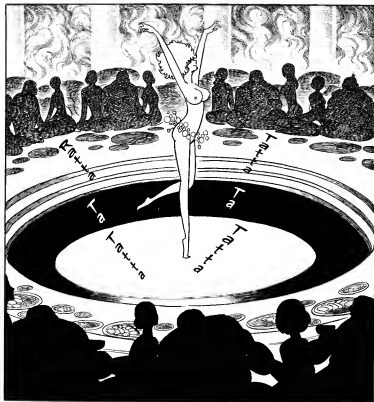
THE LAST THING YOU
SAID TO ME WAS,
"AREN'T YOU
THIRSTY?"

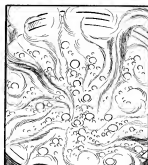
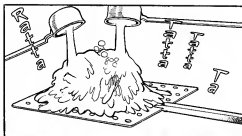
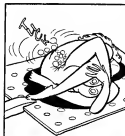


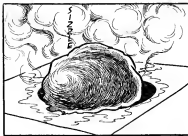
TAZU...
WHY DID
YOU DIE?
I MISS
YOU...



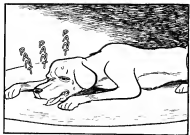
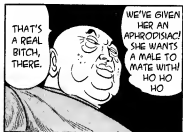


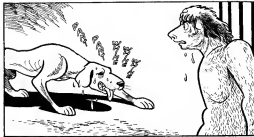


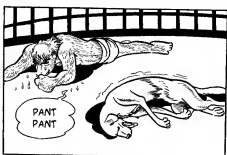
















MY NAME'S
REIKA.
WHAT'S
YOURS?

MINE'S...
KIRIHITO. NOT
THAT A NAME
MEANS ANY-
THING HERE.



I DON'T DESERVE A HUMAN
NAME. I'M A RIDICULOUS
MALE DOG, MOUNTED BY
A BITCH IN HEAT!



I HAD TO LEARN
THAT STUNT WHEN I
WAS FOUR YEARS OLD.
IT WAS TORTURE.

I DON'T KNOW
HOW MANY
TIMES I WAS
NEARLY
KILLED. I WAS
ALWAYS COVERED
IN BURNS.

IF THE BATTER COATING
HAS ANY THIN SPOTS,
THE OIL SEEPS THROUGH IT.
YOU HAVE TO ROLL UP
YOUR BODY AS TIGHTLY AS
YOU CAN. IF EVEN ONE
FINGER POKES OUT
YOU'RE IN TROUBLE.



THERE WAS A TIME
WHEN I DREAMED
OF PERFORMING IN
A WORLD-CLASS CIRCUS...
BUT THEY ALL SPURNED ME.
TOO DEPRAVED, THEY SAID.
THAT'S HOW I ENDED UP
A PARLOR ACT FOR
THIS SECRET CLUB
THEY TREAT YOU LIKE
A FREAK, OF COURSE.



HOW MANY
YEARS IS
YOUR CON-
TRACT?

NO
IDEA...



I DON'T
BELONG HERE!
I WANT TO
GO HOME!
IS THERE NO WAY
OF ESCAPING?

AS LONG AS
THEY HAVE
YOUR CON-
TRACT YOU'LL
GET SENT
BACK.



BUT IF YOU'RE DETERMINED...
IF YOU CAN ESCAPE FROM
THE PALACE, I MIGHT BE
ABLE TO PULL SOME STRINGS
TO GET YOU ON A SHIP...



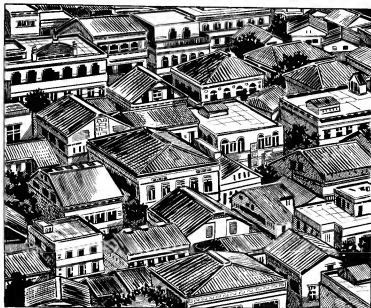
YES,
PLEASE
!

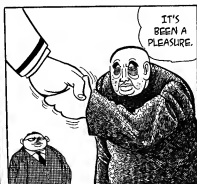
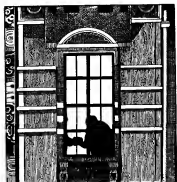
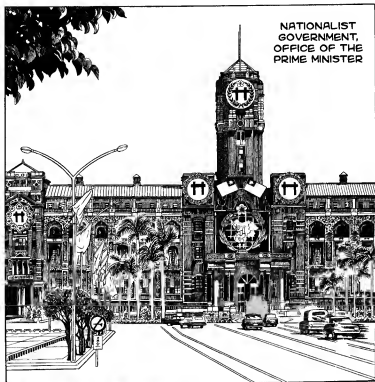
IF I CAN JUST GET
BACK TO JAPAN,
EVERYTHING WILL
WORK OUT. I MIGHT
EVEN BE ABLE TO
CURE MY FACE.

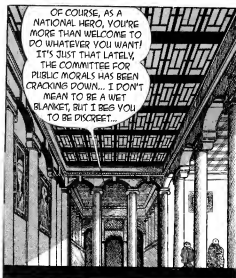
THEN HANG IN
THERE UNTIL
THEN, EVEN IF
YOU HATE IT!

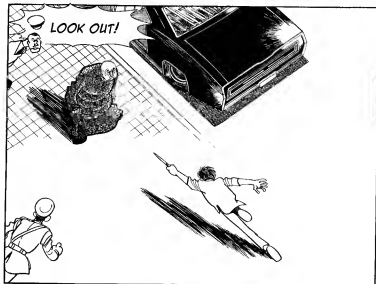


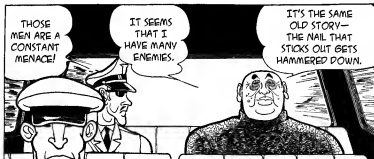
LET ME KNOW
WHEN YOU'VE
MADE THE AR-
RANGEMENTS.
AND THANK
YOU!











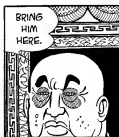


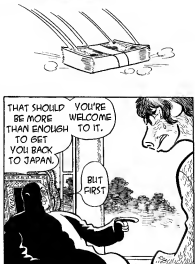
SECRET SERVICE DIRECTOR, HAVE YOU EVER EATEN AN EARTHWORM?

WHAT? YOU MUST BE JOKING!













WHAT DO
YOU THINK
YOU'RE
DOING,
DOG?



HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH



AS SOON
AS I GET
OUT OF
HERE, I'M
GOING
TO SUE
YOU!

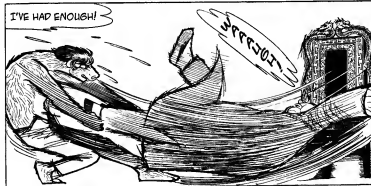


I WOULDN'T COUNT
ON IT. JUST MENTION MY
NAME TO THE AUTHORITIES.
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE
A HOPE!

I'LL GIVE YOU
ONE MORE CHANCE.
THINK CAREFULLY,
YOU DON'T WANT
TO SCREW THIS UP.



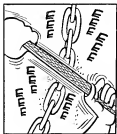
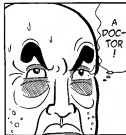
I'VE HAD ENOUGH!



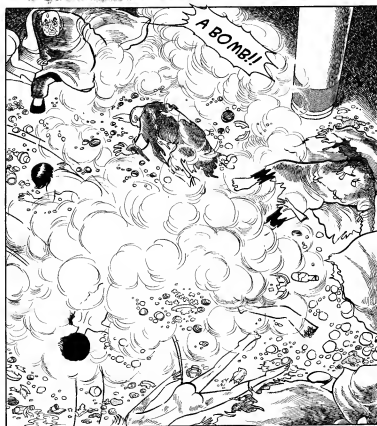


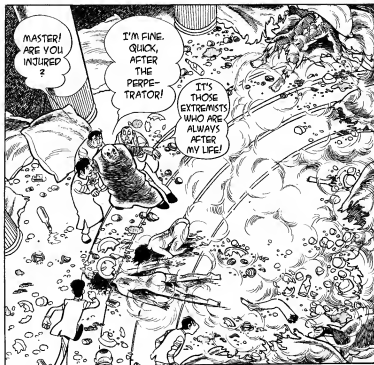


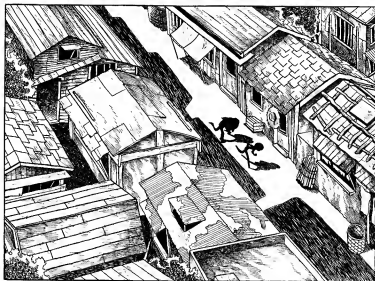


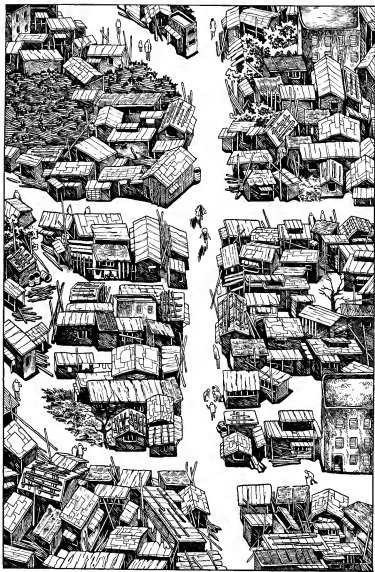


KABLAM!!









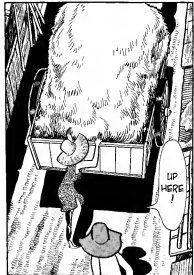


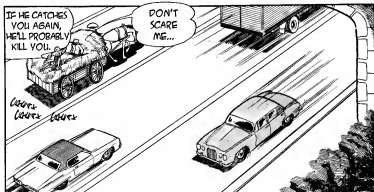
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING. I'M HELPING THIS MAN ESCAPE. THEY WERE BEATING HIM. HE WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED!



THIS ISN'T A DOG?













WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!







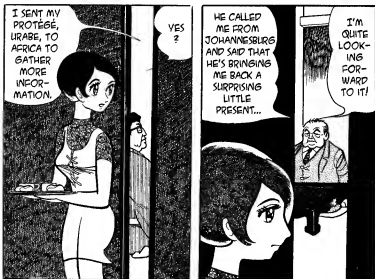
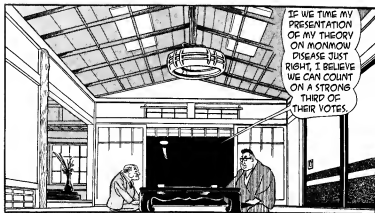
CHAPTER 7

DARK GULLEY

OSAKA













WHY DO YOU AVOID THAT SUBJECT?



I WENT TO SHIKOKU TO LOOK FOR HIM... AND YOU DIDN'T SUPPORT ME THEN, EITHER!

BUT DR. OSANAI HAS BEEN MISSING ALL THIS TIME...



I KNOW THAT! THAT'S WHY I'M TRYING TO FIND HIM!



MOTHER, I NEED YOU TO BE ON MY SIDE!



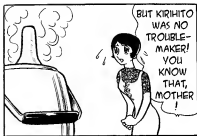
WHY DID DR. TATSUGAURA ERASE KIRIHIITO'S NAME FROM THE HOSPITAL ROSTER?

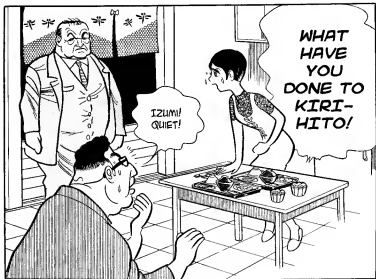


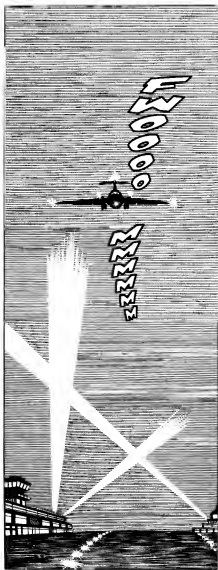
DR. TATSUGAURA SAID SOMETHING ABOUT...

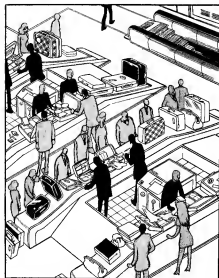
IDEOLOGICAL?

DR. OSANAI BEING TOO... IDEOLOGICAL.











LET ME
PRESENT
SISTER
HELEN
FRIESE.



THANK
YOU.

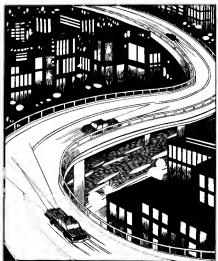
THIS IS
THE
PATIENT
I TOLD
YOU
ABOUT.

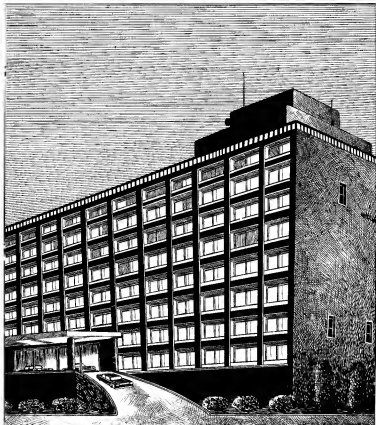
WELCOME
TO
JAPAN.

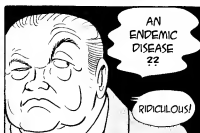


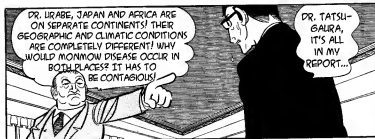
YOU MUST BE
TIRED. CHECK
INTO OUR
HOSPITAL
RIGHT AWAY.









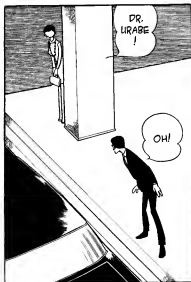


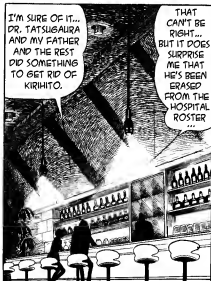














DR. TATSUBAURA IS MY MENTOR. HE TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING I KNOW! I OWE HIM MY COMPLETE LOYALTY. I OUGHT TO STAND BEHIND HIM, NO MATTER WHAT.

AND YET... I JUST CAN'T CONDONE HIS BEHAVIOR THESE PAST FEW MONTHS!



BUT SHOULD I BETRAY MY MENTOR TO DEFEND MY FINDINGS?

I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF COURAGE!



IF I DEFY HIM, I SABOTAGE MY OWN CAREER AS A DOCTOR!

JUST LIKE DR. OSANAI!



POOR OSANAI...



YES.



GOING MISSING WHEN HE HAS A FIANCEE LIKE YOU... OH, CRIPES!

WHAT AM I SAYING?



I LOVE YOU, IZUMI!
IF IT WASN'T FOR OSANAI,
YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL...
BUT I COULDN'T BETRAY
OSANAI...NEVER...
I'M TOO WEAK...



LISTEN, DR.
LIRABE... I
WENT TO
SHIKOKU TO
LOOK FOR
KIRIHITO.

THE FIRST
TIME, I
WENT TO
DOG-
GODDALE
...



HE WAS
ALREADY
GONE.

GONE,
EH?



THE SECOND
TIME, I WENT
TO THE HOT
SPRING AT
THE BASE
OF THE MOUNTAIN...

I HEARD A
STRANGE
STORY
THERE.



THERE WAS
A PLACE
CALLED
THE
SAGAMI
INN



THEY SAID A
STRANGE
CUSTOMER
WITH A FACE
LIKE A DOG
HAD BEEN
THERE.

THEY
DISCOVERED HIM
WOLFING DOWN
RAW MEAT
IN THE INN'S
KITCHEN!



REALLY! THAT
SOUNDS LIKE
A CASE OF
MONMOW
DISEASE!

LISTEN TO THIS...
A MAID AT THE INN
HEARD THE MAN
PLACING A PHONE
CALL TO
M UNIVERSITY
HOSPITAL!



THE
M.U.H.??

THERE'S
MORE
...



AT A TEMPLE
DOWN-
STREAM
FROM
DOGGOD
RIVER

THEY SAY A MAN
WHO LOOKED
LIKE A BADGER
DROPPED OFF
THE BODY OF A
DEAD WOMAN
AND DIS-
APPEARED



HE ASKED THEM
TO CONSE-
CRATE THE
BODY...

ARE YOU
SUGGEST-
ING...?



YOU
THINK
OSANAI
DEVELOPED
MONMOW
DISEASE?

I
DON'T
KNOW.



BUT I JUST
CAN'T
STOP
WONDERING
ABOUT
HIM...

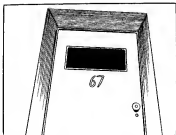
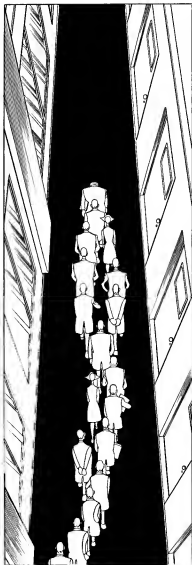


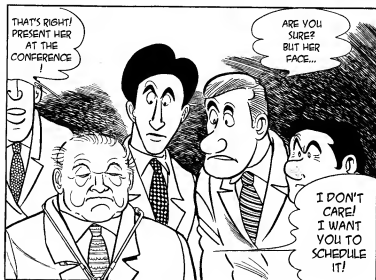
IZUMI,
YOU AND I
WILL FIND
OSANAI,
NO MATTER
WHAT!

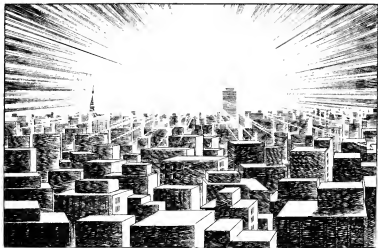


I'M
ASHAMED
TO SAY IT,
BUT I
FEEL LOST
TOO,
WITHOUT
HIM.





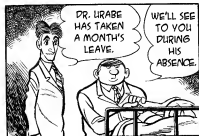






THEREFORE I SAY UNTO YOU, IS NOT THE LIFE MORE THAN MEAT,
AND THE BODY THAN RAIMENT? BEHOLD THE FOWLS OF THE AIR;
FOR THEY SOW NOT, NEITHER DO THEY REAP, NOR GATHER INTO BARNES;
YET YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER FEEDETH THEM. ARE YE NOT MUCH
BETTER THAN THEY? CONSIDER THE LILIES OF THE FIELD, HOW THEY GROW;
THEY TOIL NOT, NEITHER DO THEY SPIN: AND YET I SAY UNTO YOU,
THAT EVEN SOLOMON IN ALL HIS GLORY WAS NOT ARRAYED LIKE
ONE OF THESE. WHEREFORE, IF GOD SO CLOTHE THE GRASS OF THE FIELD,
WHICH TO DAY IS, AND TO MORROW
IS CAST INTO THE OVEN,
SHALL HE NOT
MUCH MORE
CLOTHE YOU?





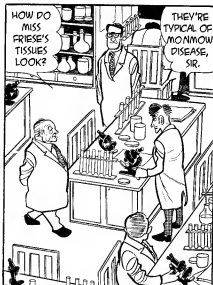


PRETTY UGLY, EH?

IT'S AWFUL SHE LOOKS LIKE A SHE-FOX.



PUT THIS ON A SLIDE, PLEASE.



HOW DO MISS FRIESE'S TISSUES LOOK?

THEY'RE TYPICAL OF MONMOW DISEASE, SIR.



DID YOU FIND ANYTHING?

NO, NOTHING SPECIAL.



THERE'S ABNORMAL GROWTH OF MUTATED CELLS, JUST LIKE IN CANCER PATIENTS.



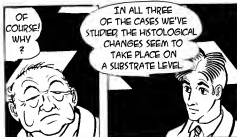
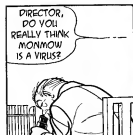
WHAT HAPPENED WHEN YOU INJECTED THEM INTO A MOUSE?

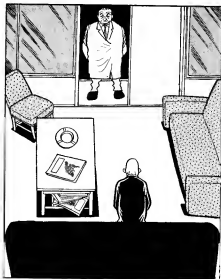


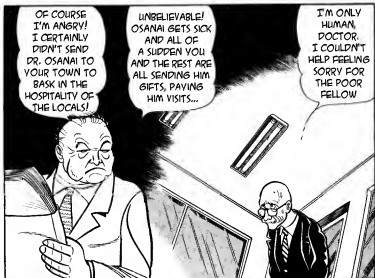
NO CHANGE.



ALSO TYPICAL!







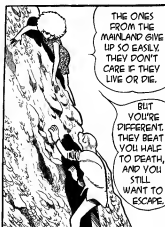


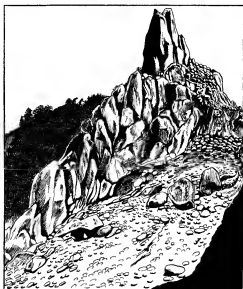


CHAPTER 8

DISSOLUTION

A CLIFF NEAR
MT. SHENG,
TAIWAN



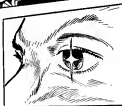




















NOT JUST
THE DWARF!
THE SPIDER MAN,
AND THE MAN
OF RUBBER,
TOO!

YOU'RE
THE
SEVENTH
MAN I'VE
BROUGHT
HERE!

HO HO
HO HO! HEE
HEE HEE
HEE! HA HA
HA HA HA!



SO, YOU HAVE A
FETISH FOR FREAKS!
YOU'RE A
PARAPHILIAC.
YOU'RE VERY ILL!

I HAD A
FEELING THAT
THERE WAS SOME-
THING DEVIANT
ABOUT
YOU!



HA! YOU'RE
ONE TO
TALK, DOG!

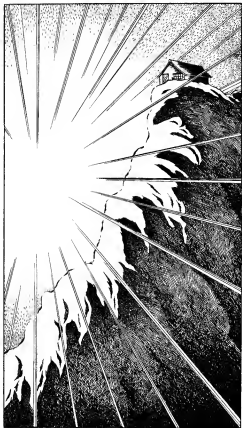
**I'M A
HUMAN
BEING!**

WHY NOT BE
A DOG, HUM?
BE A WOLF
FOR ME!



AAAUUGH!







GIVE
IT UP!



I'M PRE-
PARED TO
STAY UP
ON THIS
MOUNTAIN
FOREVER!

AFTER TWO WEEKS,
THE DWARF CHEWED
HIS OWN TONGUE
OFF AND DIED,
CURSING ME
THROUGH MOUTH-
FULS OF BLOOD!



SO THAT'S
HIS BLOOD ON
THE WALLS?



HERE.

WHY NOT
JUST
GIVE IN?

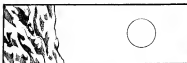
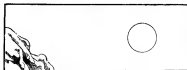
LEAVE
EVERYTHING
TO ME...

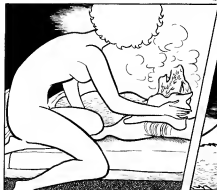


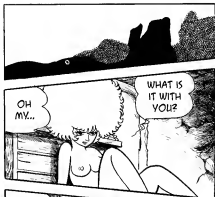
HEE HEE HEE.
DRINK THIS
APHRODISIAC!
WE'LL SEE
THE EFFECTS
TONIGHT!

IF YOU
DON'T
DRINK IT,
YOU'LL BE
THIRSTY!

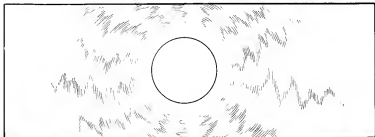


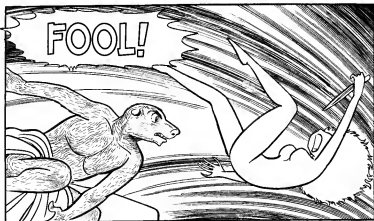








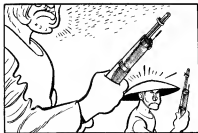
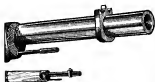
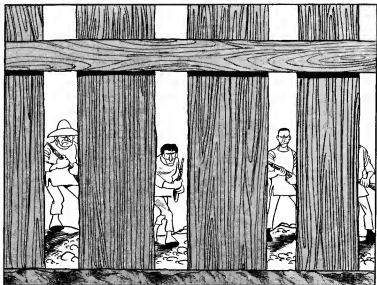


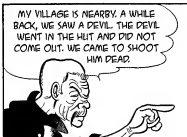


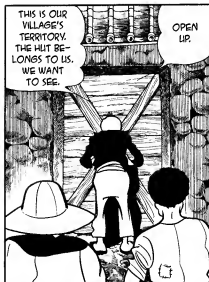


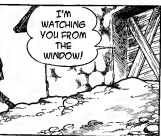
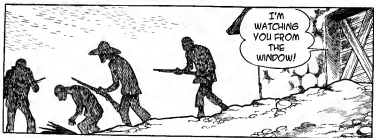








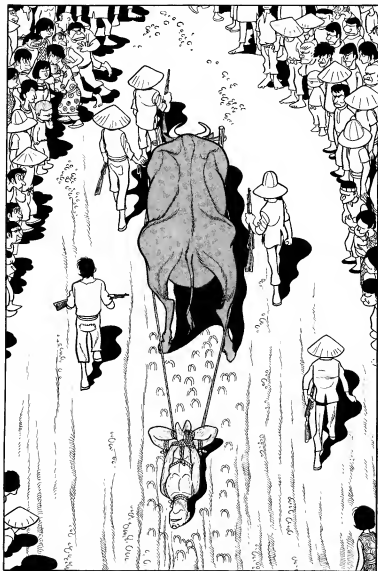


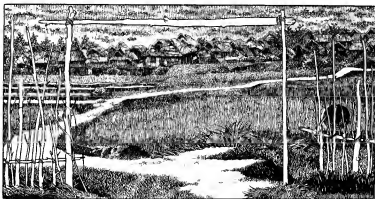


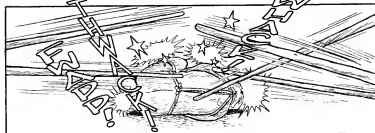


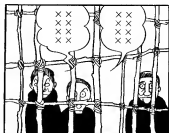
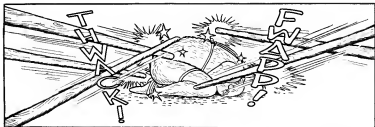


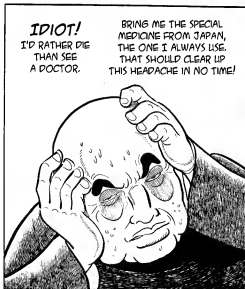












DR. LIANG OF
TAIPEI UNIVERSITY
HOSPITAL IS
REGARDED VERY
HIGHLY. I'M SURE
YOU'D BE IN
GOOD HANDS...

IMBECILE
!

HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN
THAT I'VE
MADE IT
WITHOUT
SEEING
A DOCTOR
FOR 50
YEARS?

AARGH!

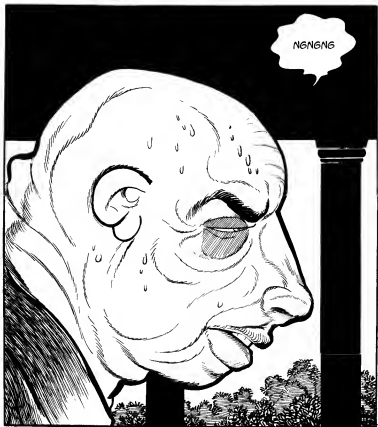
MEDICINE!
BRING ME THAT
JAPANESE
"WISDOM
WATER"!

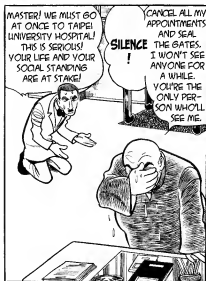
WHILE I'M
WAITING,
BRING ME
MEAT.
I CRAVE
MEAT...

YES
SIR.





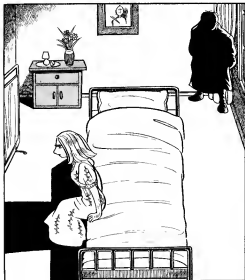






CHAPTER 9

CRAZED BITCH



DR. TATSUGAURA,
YOU'RE SAYING
THAT YOU WANT
TO DISPLAY ME
AT THE GMC
IN OCTOBER
?



PERHAPS
THE WORD
"DISPLAY"
GIVES THE
WRONG
IMPRES-
SION.

I WANT TO IN-
TRODUCE YOU TO
THE MEMBERS AS
AN IMPORTANT
MEDICAL
CASE
...



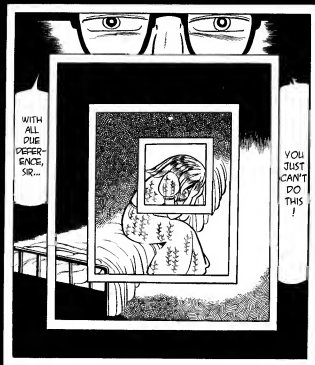
ARE
YOU
SURE
?

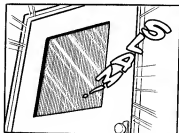


ABSO-
LUTELY.

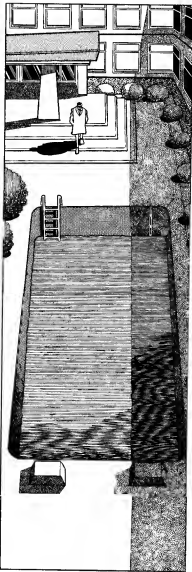














OSANAI...
WHERE ON
EARTH
ARE YOU?



I REALLY NEED
YOUR HELP
RIGHT NOW.

I DON'T
KNOW WHERE
TO TURN.

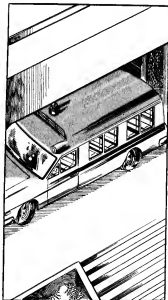
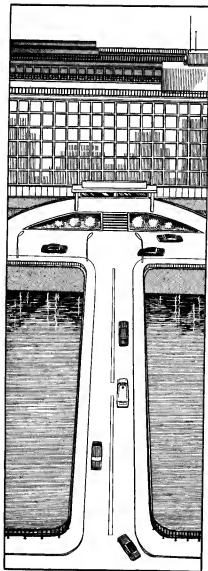
I'VE SPENT A
MONTH SEARCHING
FOR YOU INSTEAD
OF WRITING MY
REPORT.

I FOUND
OUT THAT YOU
EVEN TOOK A WIFE
IN DOBSONDALE,
A LOCAL GIRL....

BUT WHY?
WHY??













URINE
SHOWS HIGH
LEVELS OF
PROTEIN AND
BILIRUBIN.



FULL BODY EXAMINATION SHOWED SKELETAL CHANGES, STUNTING OF LIMBS, SKULL DEFORMITY, ATROPHY OF BONE CELLS IN LOWER JAW, SIGNIFICANT ENLARGEMENT OF THE LIVER ALMOST RESEMBLING HEPATIC JAUNDICE. SLIGHT SKIN DISCOLORATION, AND ABNORMAL HAIR GROWTH, ESPECIALLY ON LIMBS AND BACK.



IS THERE
ANY
HOPE?

CAN WE AT
LEAST PREVENT
HIM FROM
DETERIO-
RATING?

ALL WE CAN
DO FOR NOW
IS TREAT HIS
SYMPTOMS.

DO YOU HAVE
ANY IDEA HOW
OR WHEN HE MIGHT
HAVE CONTRACTED
THE DISEASE?

WELL, THREE MONTHS
AGO, WE DID HAVE
A DOG-MAN
AT THE PALACE
WHOM WE'D
OBTAINED
IN JAPAN...

**DOG-
MAN
??**

**FROM
JAPAN
??**

YES, A MAN
WHO LOOKED JUST
LIKE A DOG.
HE CLAIMED TO
BE A DOCTOR...





HE BLEW UP
PART OF THE
PALACE AND
ESCAPED
DURING THE
CONFUSION.

WE'VE TRIED TO
FIND HIM BUT WE
HAVEN'T SUCCEEDED.
HE MIGHT BE
SPREADING THE
DISEASE AS
WE SPEAK...

I HAVE ALMOST
ALL OF THE
PUZZLE PIECES,
NOW... OSANAI
CONTRACTED
MONMOW IN
DOGGODDALE,
THEN LEFT THE
VILLAGE...

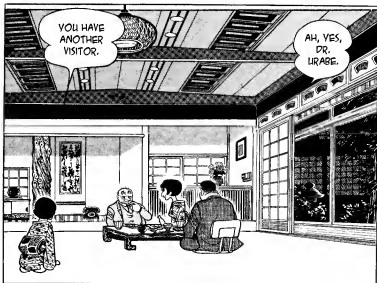
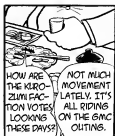
BUT
HOW
DID HE
END
UP IN
TAI-
WAN?

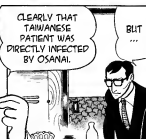
AND WHY
DIDN'T HE
TELL US HE'D
CONTRACTED
MONMOW
?

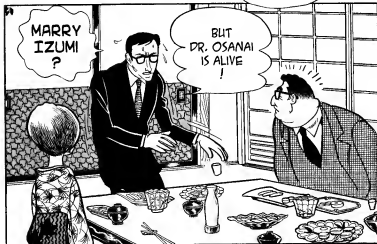
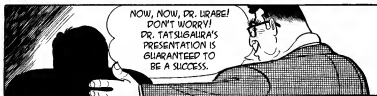
DON'T
ASK ME.

THE IMPORTANT
ISSUE RIGHT NOW IS THAT
OSANAI IS SPREADING
THE MONMOW
PATHOGEN AND
THAT THIS MAN
HAS BEEN IN-
FECTED.

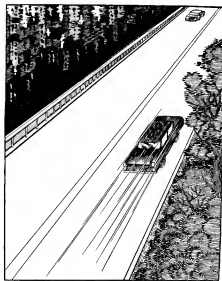
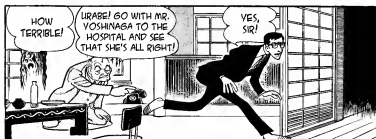
WE
KNOW
BECAUSE
THERE'S
NO PAST
RECORD OF
MONMOW
IN TAIWAN!
IT WAS
BROUGHT
THERE BY
OSANAI!
MONMOW
IS CONTA-
GIOUS, I
TELL YOU!

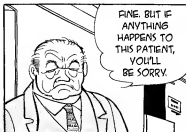


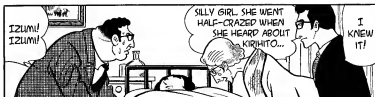


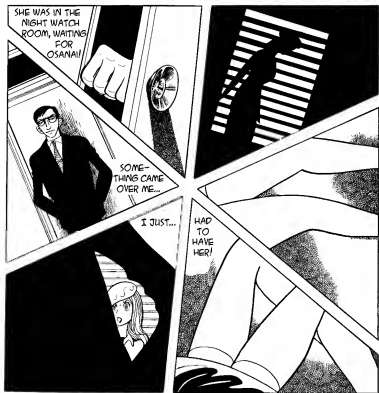
















I'M



IN-
SANE

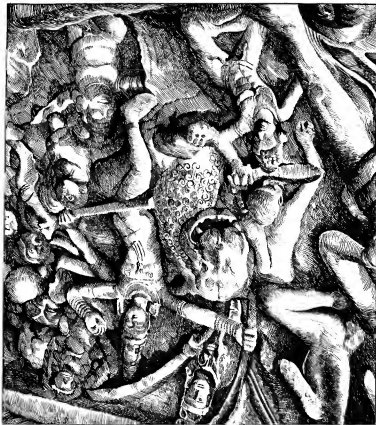


THIS
IS
AN
EPI-
SODE.

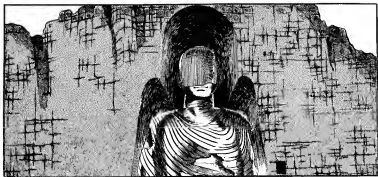


I'M
AWARE
THAT MY
BEHAVIOR
IS
ABNORMAL
AND
YET
I'M
UNABLE
TO STOP
MYSELF
...

















THE DISEASE HAS STOPPED PROGRESSING. PERHAPS THOSE PITUITARY HORMONES WORKED.

BUT THE BONE ATROPHY IS ALREADY VERY ADVANCED...

THERE'S ALSO A RISK THAT THE SKILL DEFORMATION IS PRESSURING THE BRAIN. THE PATIENT COULD DIE OF SHOCK.

IN ANY CASE, HE'S BEYOND HOPE.

IT'S MUCH TOO LATE.



TOO LATE ??

DUE TO NEGLIGENT TREATMENT. THIS ISN'T OUR FAULT. IF ANYTHING, THE FAULT LIES WITH TAIPEI UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL.



THAT'S UNFAIR! IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE WHEN THE PATIENT CAME UNDER OUR CARE!



SO YOU DECIDED TO PAWN HIM OFF ON US?

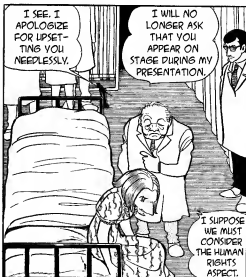
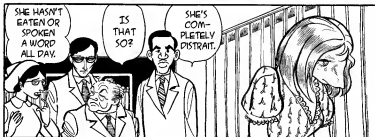


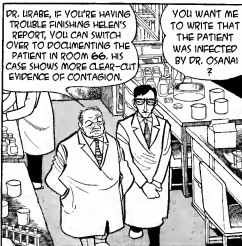
KEEP TREATING HIS SYMPTOMS.

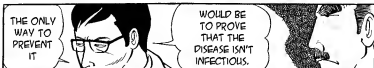
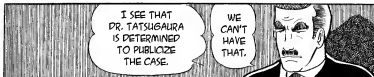
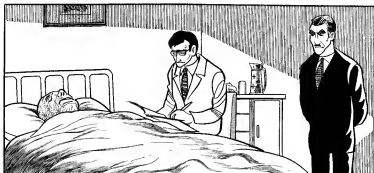


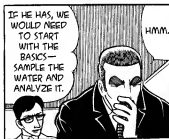
THE BOSS IS IN A REALLY FOUL MOOD TODAY.

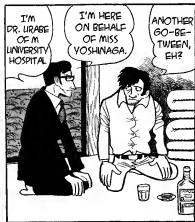
I WONDER IF SOMETHING HAPPENED LAST NIGHT.





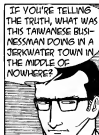












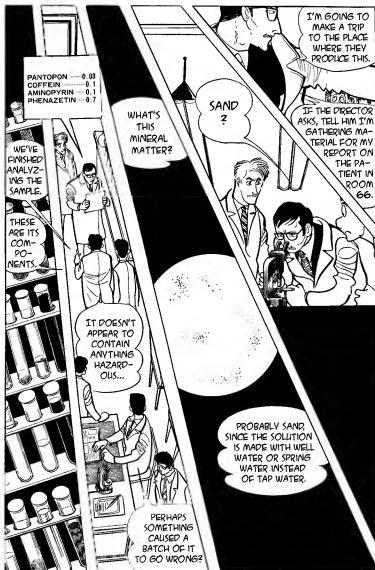
THEY SELL A SPECIAL
HEADACHE TONIC
AT THE ZABOU
HOT SPRING CALLED
WISDOM WATER.
IT'S SO POPULAR
THAT ITS DEVOTEES
REFUSE TO TAKE
ANYTHING ELSE.

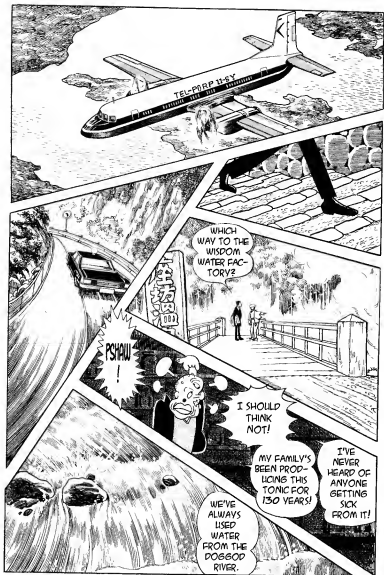
PEOPLE GET
WORD AND COME
ALL THE WAY
FROM KOREA AND
TAIWAN TO BUY IT.













I UNDER-
STAND
THAT YOU
HAVE
TAIWANESE
CUSTOMERS,
TOO.

OF
COURSE
!

HAVE
YOU
HAD ANY
SPECIAL OR-
DERS FROM A
TAIWANESE
CLIENT
LATELY? PERHAPS AN
ESPECIALLY
LARGE
SHIPMENT
?

AS A
MATTER
OF FACT,
WE DID
BREW A
CUSTOM
ORDER
FOR
SOMEONE
CALLED
MAHN.

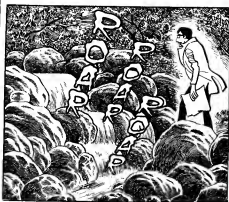
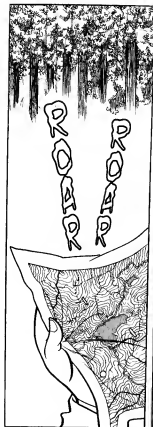


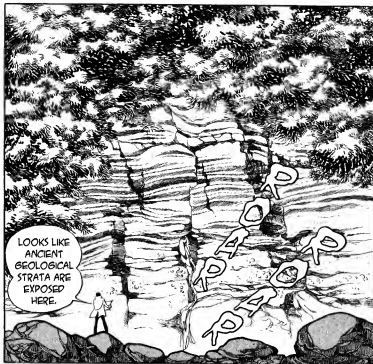
MAHN
?

THAT TIME,
WE USED
WATER
FROM WAY
UPSTREAM.

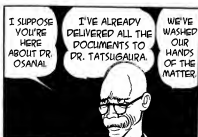


SPRING
WATER
FROM UP
BEYOND
DOG-
GODDALE.











THE
PATIENT
IN
ROOM
67?

HELEN
FRIESE
?

VAN-
ISHED
?

SHE'S
NOT
IN HER
ROOM?

OR
ON THE
GROUNDS
?

LOOK
CAREFULLY!
WHEN
DID YOU
NOTICE?

THIS
MORNING?
THEN SHE
LEFT DURING
THE NIGHT...



HELEN
!

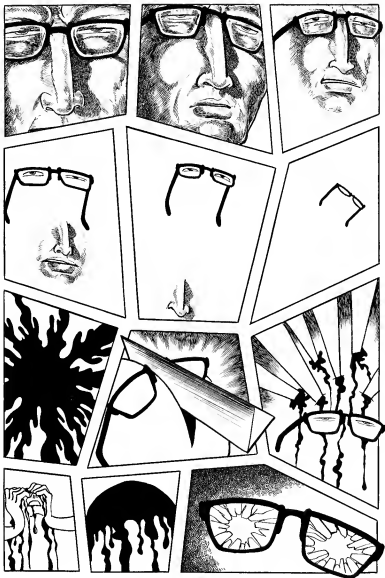
HELEN
FRIESE
IS
MISSING
...

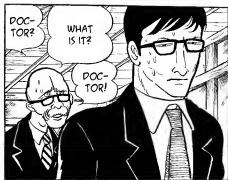
I...MUST...
FIND...HER.
MUST...FIND...
FIND...MUST...

FIND!

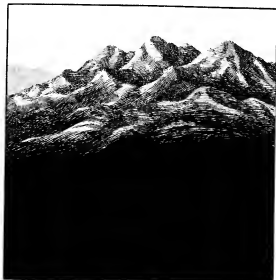
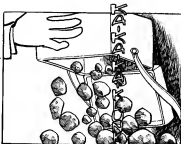








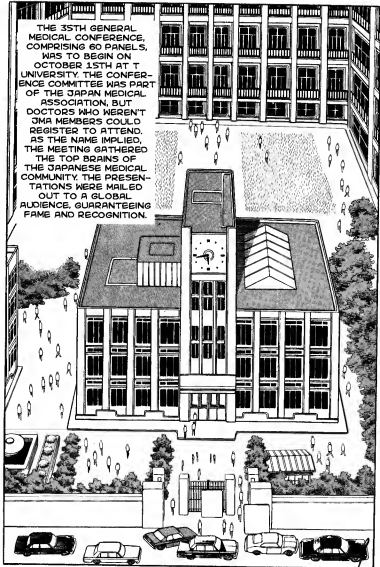




CHAPTER 10

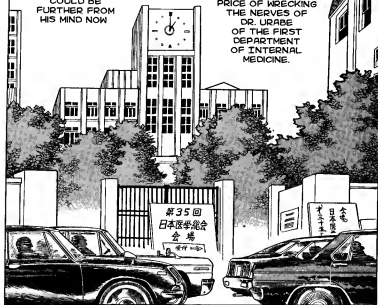
APPROACH TO GLORY

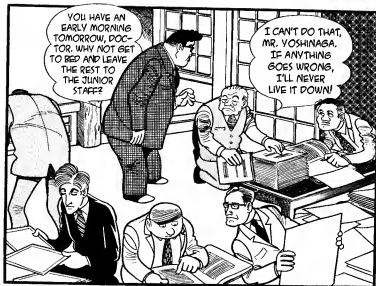
THE 35TH GENERAL MEDICAL CONFERENCE, COMPRISING 60 PANELS, WAS TO BEGIN ON OCTOBER 15TH AT T UNIVERSITY. THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE WAS PART OF THE JAPAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, BUT DOCTORS WHO WEREN'T JMA MEMBERS COULD REGISTER TO ATTEND. AS THE NAME IMPLIED, THE MEETING GATHERED THE TOP BRAINS OF THE JAPANESE MEDICAL COMMUNITY. THE PRESENTATIONS WERE MAILED OUT TO A GLOBAL AUDIENCE, GUARANTEEING FAME AND RECOGNITION.



DR. TATSUGAURA
HAD BANISHED
KIRIHITO OSANAI
FOR JOINING
THE YOUNG
DOCTORS LEAGUE,
BUT NOTHING
COULD BE
FURTHER FROM
HIS MIND NOW

HE WAS TOO BUSY
PREPARING HIS
REPORT ON
MONMOW DISEASE.
IT WAS SOMEHOW
FINISHED ON TIME,
BUT AT THE
PRICE OF WRECKING
THE NERVES OF
DR. URABE
OF THE FIRST
DEPARTMENT
OF INTERNAL
MEDICINE.





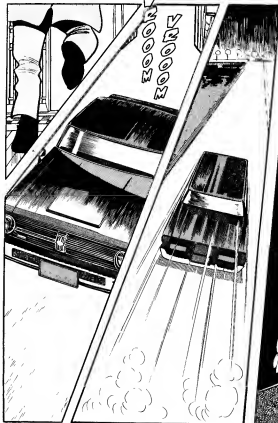




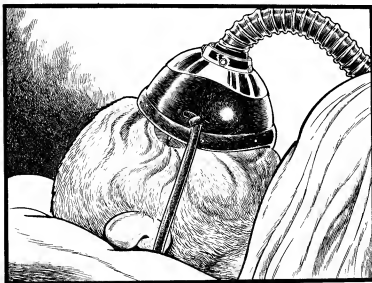




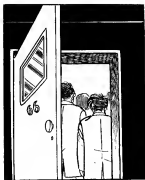
TAKAGI! YOU
HANDLE THE
REST! I'M
GOING TO THE
HOSPITAL!













THAT'S HOW
IT GOES.
YOU DID
EVERYTHING
YOU COULD,
DR. TATSU-
GAURA.

THE PATIENT
COULDN'T
HAVE ASKED
FOR ANY
BETTER.

I WANTED TO KEEP
HIM ALIVE... TODAY IS A
VERY IMPORTANT DAY!
I'LL BE PUBLICIZING
THE DISEASE
WORLDWIDE

I ABSO-
LUTELY
NEEDED HIM
FOR MY PRESEN-
TATION!

AT LEAST
ALLOW
US TO
PUBLISH
HIS
AUTOPSY
...

I
CAN'T
PERMIT
THAT.



EXCUSE US.
WE NEED TO
PREPARE
FOR OUR
DEPARTURE.

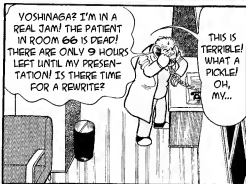


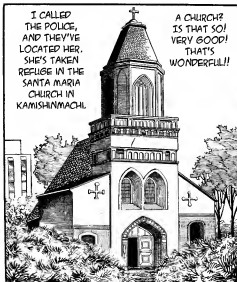
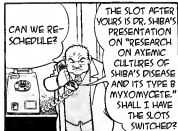
CRIPES! MY
PRESENTATION
TODAY REVOLVES
AROUND HAVING A
PATIENT TO EXHIBIT!
WHAT WILL I DO?
WHAT WILL I...

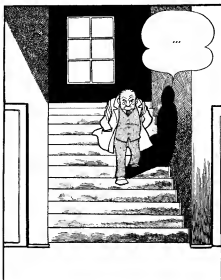


YOSHINAGA? I'M IN A
REAL JAM! THE PATIENT
IN ROOM 66 IS DEAD!
THERE ARE ONLY 9 HOURS
LEFT UNTIL MY PRESEN-
TATION! IS THERE TIME
FOR A REWRITE?

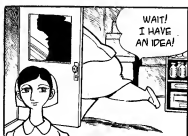
THIS IS
TERRIBLE!
WHAT A
PICKLE!
OH,
MY...







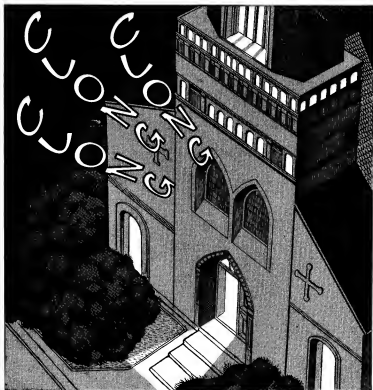






CHAPTER II

HELEN FRIESE





DR.
URABE
?!

HE SAYS
HE'S YOUR
DESIG-
NATED
PHYSICIAN.

WHAT
SHALL I
TELL
THEM?

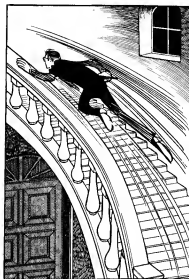
I DON'T
WANT TO SEE
HIM! I WON'T!
PLEASE TELL
HIM TO GO
AWAY!

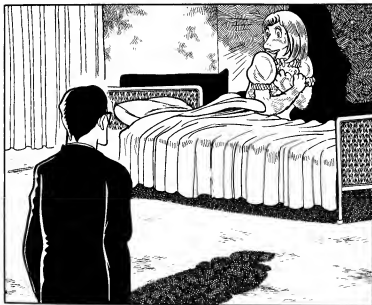
WHAT DID
SHE SAY?

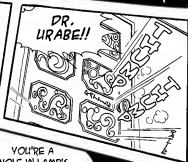
I'M VERY SORRY,
BUT SHE DOESN'T
WANT TO SEE
YOU. I'M AFRAID
I MUST ASK YOU
TO LEAVE.

B-BUT
THIS IS AN
EMERGENCY
!

DR. URABE
HAS TAKEN
GREAT
PAINS TO
COME
HERE!











NOW
YOU'RE
HAVING
FUN
WITH
ME...



DO YOU THINK
I'D RUN IN HERE
AND LOCK
THE DOOR
JUST TO JEST?



HELEN,
HOW WAS I
TO TAKE
OFF MY
DOCTOR'S
MASK IN
THAT STUFFY
HOSPITAL
ROOM WITH
THE EYES
OF THE
MEDICAL
STAFF
ON ME?



THE DAY YOU REBUKE
ME FOR, I WAS WITH
DR. TATSUGAURA AND
NOTHING MORE THAN
A MEDICAL CHART
IN A WHITE COAT!



THAT'S HOW
WE'RE TRAINED
AT THE
UNIVERSITY
HOSPITAL.









WITH THIS
FACE?

YOU'RE IN
LOVE WITH
THIS FACE?



SINCE YOU
MENTION
YOUR
DISEASE...

I'VE FOUND
EVIDENCE
THAT MON-
MOW ISN'T
CONTAGIOUS.

I FOUND THE KEY IN
A COMMERCIAL MEDICINE
THAT I HAD THE MEDICAL
FACULTY ANALYZE...
I BELIEVE THAT MONMOW
IS CAUSED BY THE ORAL
CONSUMPTION OF A TOXIC
SUBSTANCE PRESENT
IN THE WATER...



I WENT DEEP INTO THE
MOUNTAINS OF SHIKOKU
AND COLLECTED SAMPLES
OF ROCK THAT I
THOUGHT WOULD CON-
TAIN THE SUBSTANCE.
THEN I HEARD ABOUT
YOUR DISAPPEARANCE,
AND IN MY SURPRISE
I LEFT WITHOUT
THE ROCKS

I STILL HAD TWO
OR THREE STONES
IN MY POCKETS,
THOUGH. UPON
MY RETURN, I
SET TO WORK
TRYING TO
EXTRACT THE
SUBSTANCE.



OF COURSE I COULDN'T USE
THE LABS AT THE UNIVERSITY
OR THE MEDICAL FACULTY...
I TOOK SICK LEAVE AND
HOLED UP AT A
FRIEND'S LAB.

WE'RE
STILL IN
THE PROCESS
OF EXTRACTING
THE SUBSTANCE.
THERE'S ONLY A
TINY QUANTITY,
SO IT'S NOT EASY.
BUT I'M CONFIDENT
THAT IF WE FIND
IT, IT'LL BE
A MAJOR
DISCOVERY.

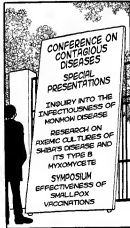
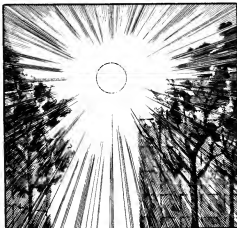
IF NOTHING ELSE,
IT'LL BE A CLUE AS TO
HOW WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO
RESTORE YOU TO HOW
YOU USED TO LOOK.

I'M
DETERMINED
TO DO THIS FOR
YOU. I WON'T GIVE
UP EVEN IF IT
TAKES ME 10
YEARS,
20...

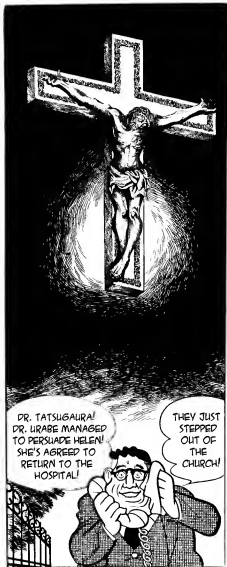
IF
I FIND
A WAY
TO CURE
YOU...

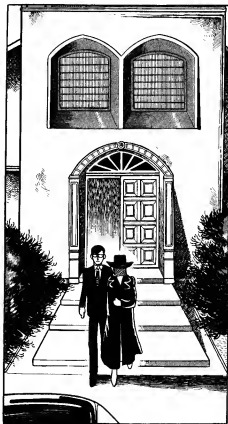
I HOPE
YOU'LL
TAKE
IT AS A
TOKEN
OF MY
SINCERITY.



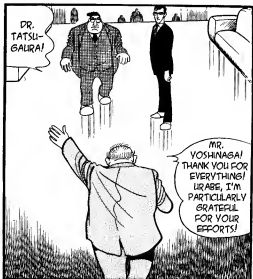


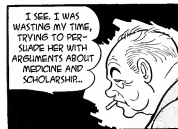


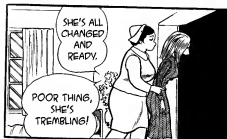


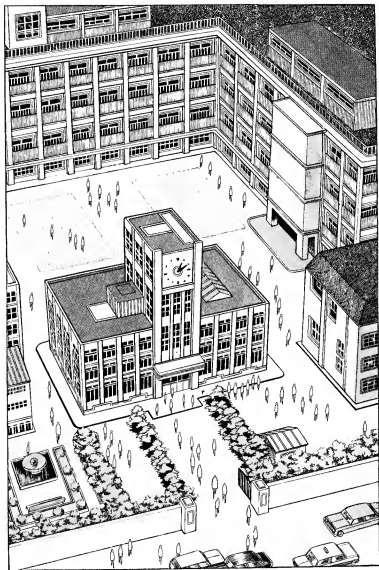


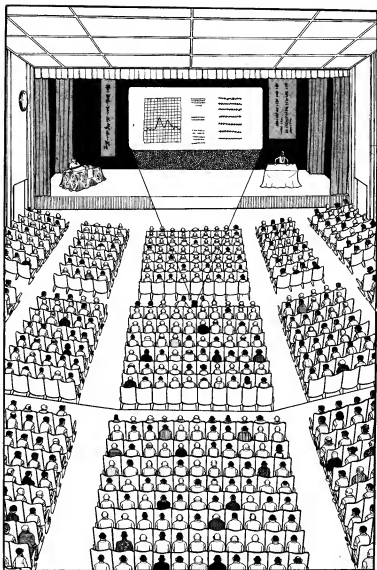


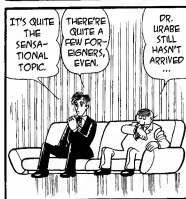
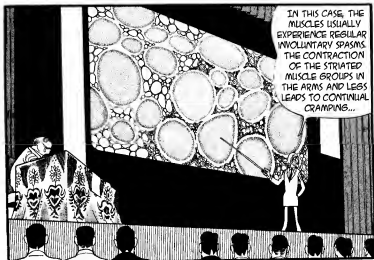










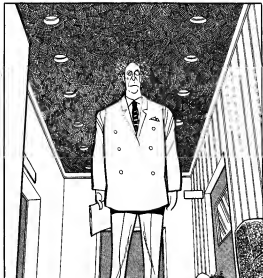












DR.
MANHEIM
!

GUTEN MORGEN,
DOCTOR
TATSUGAURA!
I'M VERY PLEASED
TO MEET YOU.

I SAW YOU AT
THE WORLD
CONFERENCE ON
INFECTIOUS DISEASES
IN MUNICH, BUT I'M
AFRAID I DIDN'T
HAVE A CHANCE TO
INTRODUCE
MYSELF.

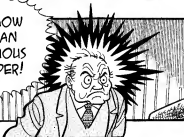
DOCTOR
TATSUGAURA,
THERE IS
GREAT
INTEREST
IN MY
COUNTRY
AND IN
OTHERS
ALL OVER
THE WORLD.

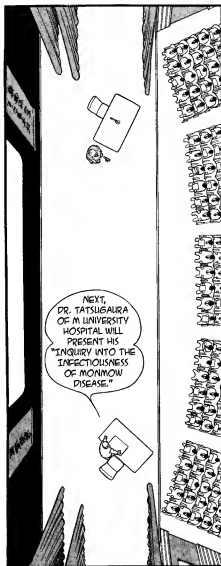
ABOUT
MONMOW
DISEASE,
THE SUBJECT
OF YOUR
PRESENTATION!



MONMOW ISN'T AN INFECTIOUS DISORDER!

I CAN PROVIDE COUNTER-EVIDENCE, TOO.





WE AT M. UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL HAVE MAINTAINED CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE VILLAGE OF DOGGODDALE IN ORDER TO STUDY THE DISORDER KNOWN AS MONYOW DISEASE, OF WHICH THERE ARE 223 RECORDED CASES IN THAT REGION OF MIYOSHI COUNTY, TOKUSHIMA PREFECTURE. THE VILLAGE PROMISED TO SEND ANY NEW CASES TO OUR HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY.



SLIDE...



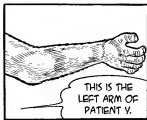
SEPTEMBER 22 OF LAST YEAR... WHEN PATIENT V CAME UNDER OUR CARE, HE HAD ALREADY DEVELOPED THESE UNIQUE SYMPTOMS AND IT WAS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO CHECK THE DISEASE'S PROCESS. WE CONTINUED TO TREAT HIS SYMPTOMS BUT HE DIED ON OCTOBER 11. THIS WAS TAKEN APPROXIMATELY 10 DAYS BEFORE HIS DEATH.



AGE: 58 SEX: MALE
PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS:
SLIGHT CHEST
X-RAY SHADOW
GENETIC DISEASES: NONE
FAMILY: WIFE, 3 SONS,
1 DAUGHTER



NEXT
SLIDE,
PLEASE.



THIS IS THE
LEFT ARM OF
PATIENT V.

AS YOU CAN
SEE, THERE
WAS DRASTIC
ATROPHY
OF THE LONG
BONES, AS WELL
AS ABNORMAL
GROWTH OF
BODY HAIR.



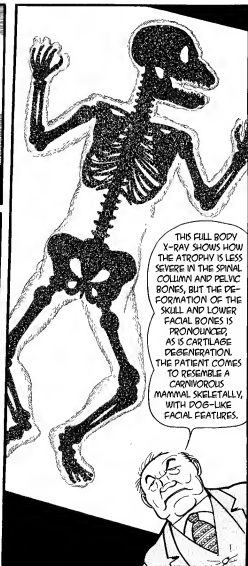
"MOAN"



THERE,
THERE!



DOC-
TOR!



三
村
民

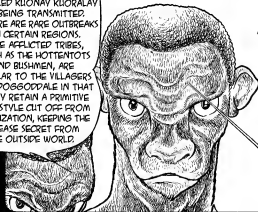
山
中
の
村
民

THE RESIDENTS OF DOGGODDALE ARE ALMOST COMPLETELY ISOLATED FROM THEIR NEIGHBORS. BLOOD RELATIVES DON'T INTERMARRY, BUT THESE VILLAGES ARE EXTREMELY TERRITORIAL...



MONMOW DISEASE HAS EXISTED THERE FOR AGES BUT WAS DEALT WITH INTERNALLY WITHOUT EXPOSING IT TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD. MEANWHILE, AMONG THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATION OF RHODESIA

A MYSTERIOUS DISEASE CALLED KLONAY KUORALAY IS BEING TRANSMITTED. THERE ARE RARE OUTBREAKS IN CERTAIN REGIONS. THE AFFLICTED TRIBES, SUCH AS THE HOTTENTOTS AND BUSHMEN, ARE SIMILAR TO THE VILLAGERS OF DOGGODDALE IN THAT THEY RETAIN A PRIMITIVE LIFESTYLE CUT OFF FROM CIVILIZATION, KEEPING THE DISEASE SECRET FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD.



KLONAY KUORALAY
A MYSTERIOUS DISEASE
BEING TRANSMITTED
IN CERTAIN REGIONS

WHY DID THESE RARE AND EXTREMELY SIMILAR DISEASES EMERGE IN TWO SEPARATE, INSULAR LOCALES? THE OBVIOUS EXPLANATION WOULD BE THAT THEY WERE MUTATIONS RESULTING FROM INTERMARRIAGE. HOWEVER, HAVING OBSERVED THE COURSE OF THE DISEASE FROM ITS SUDDEN ONSET TO THE DEATH OF A PATIENT, THIS IS CLEARLY NOT THE CASE. MOREOVER, THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THE DISEASE CAN SPREAD TO A THIRD PARTY...

IN OTHER WORDS, A VISITOR WITH NO BLOOD TIES TO THE GROUP.

ONE SUCH CASE IS THAT OF A CAUCASIAN WOMAN WHO DEVELOPED THE DISEASE WHILE LIVING AMONG AN INDIGENOUS TRIBE IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA. SHE HAS BEEN GRACIOUS ENOUGH TO AGREE TO APPEAR AMONG US TODAY IN THE INTEREST OF MEDICAL INQUIRY...

NOW, HELEN. GO ON.

NO! NO! NO! I CAN'T!

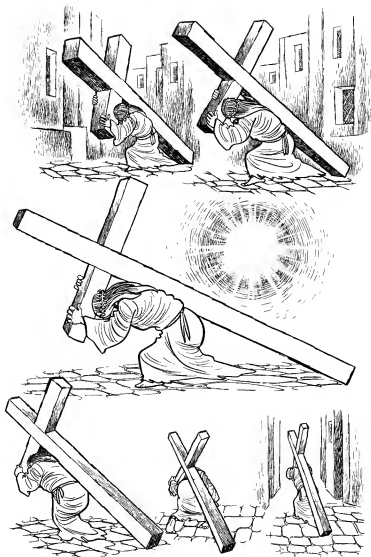
COME, NOW! BE STRONG!

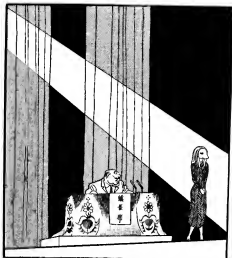
READ IT NOW, DOCTOR...

THEN THE SOLDIERS STRIPPED HIM, AND PUT ON HIM A SCARLET ROBE. AND WHEN THEY HAD PLATTED A CROWN OF THORNS

THEY PUT IT UPON HIS HEAD, AND A REED IN HIS RIGHT HAND: AND THEY BOWED THE KNEE BEFORE HIM, AND MOCKED HIM, SAYING, HAIL, KING OF THE JEWS! AND THEY SPAT UPON HIM, AND TOOK THE REED, AND SMOTE HIM ON THE HEAD.

AND AFTER THAT THEY HAD MOCKED HIM, THEY TOOK THE ROBE OFF FROM HIM, AND PUT HIS OWN RAIMENT ON HIM, AND LED HIM AWAY TO THE CROSS. AND WHEN THEY WERE COME UNTO A PLACE CALLED GOLGOTHA, THAT IS TO SAY, A PLACE OF A SKULL...

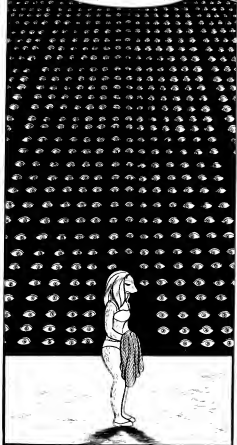






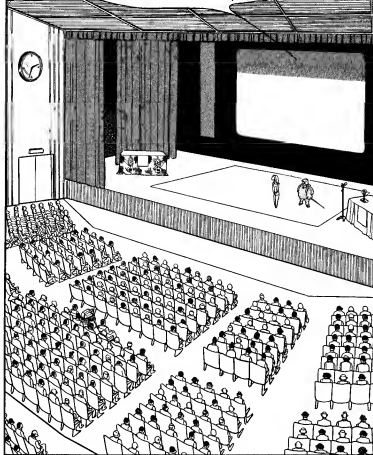


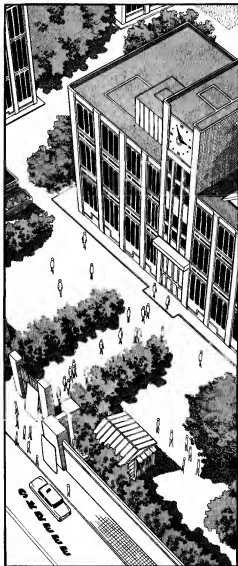
18 MONTHS AGO, ON
MARCH 27, 1969, THE PATIENT WAS
SENT TO THE DEHK MINE IN THE UPPER
LIMPOPO RIVER REGION OF RHODESIA, WHERE
THERE ARE NUMEROUS KUONAY KUORALAY
CASES AMONG THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
WHO WORK AS MINERS. DR. UIRABE
OF OUR MEDICAL FACULTY
PERSONALLY OBSERVED
MORE THAN TEN CASES.

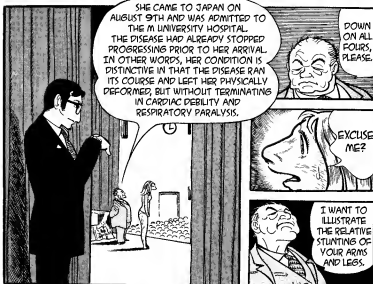




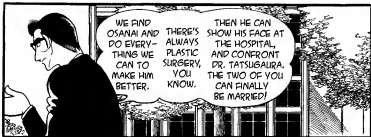
ON OCTOBER 15, 1969, THE DISEASE TOOK HOLD, AND THE PATIENT EXPERIENCED SHARP PAINS IN ALL FOUR LIMBS AS WELL AS MANIERE'S SYNDROME. PRIOR TO THIS, THE PATIENT HAD DIRECT CONTACT WITH VICTIMS OF KUONAY KUORALAY, ALTHOUGH SHE CANNOT REMEMBER THE EXACT DATES. SHE ALSO ADMITS THAT SHE HAD A SMALL LACERATION ON HER LEG AT THE TIME AND THAT SHE TOUCHED IT WITH HER HAND.

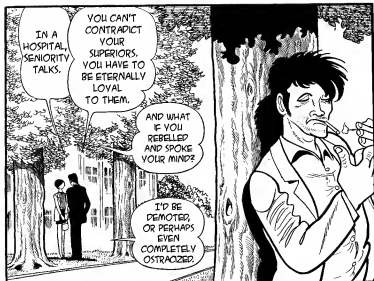










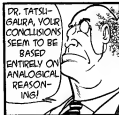


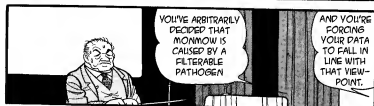
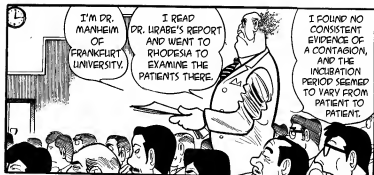


PATIENT X, WHO WAS ENTRUSTED TO OUR CARE BY TAIPEI UNIVERSITY, IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN INFECTED THROUGH CONTACT WITH PATIENT Z, WHO JOURNEYED TO TAIWAN FROM JAPAN FOR CERTAIN REASONS. THE CONTACT CONSISTED OF A LESION INFLECTED BY PATIENT Z'S FINGERNAILS ON PATIENT X'S NECK.

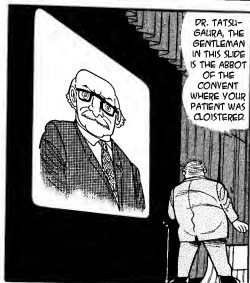
THE ONSET OF THE DISEASE OCCURRED APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS AFTER THE LESION WAS INFLECTED. THIS INCUBATION PERIOD IS SIMILAR TO THAT SEEN IN PATIENTS G, H, AND I IN RHODESIA, AS WELL AS PATIENTS B AND C FROM DOGGODDALE.

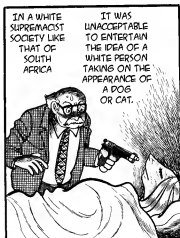
Case	Age	Sex	Occupation	Onset	Duration	Location	Notes
M	45	Male	Teacher	1961	12	Japan	...
I	35	Female	Homemaker	1961	15	Japan	...
J	25	Male	Student	1961	10	Japan	...
K	30	Female	Homemaker	1961	18	Japan	...
L	40	Male	Teacher	1961	14	Japan	...
M	38	Female	Homemaker	1961	16	Japan	...
N	42	Male	Teacher	1961	13	Japan	...
O	36	Female	Homemaker	1961	17	Japan	...
P	44	Male	Teacher	1961	11	Japan	...
Q	39	Female	Homemaker	1961	19	Japan	...













AND
ABNORMAL
CRAVINGS.



THIS BEGAN
RIGHT WHEN
SHE FIRST
ARRIVED AT
THE CON-
VENT IN
RHODESIA.



THIS ACCOUNT
CLEARLY
CONFLICTS
WITH THE
INCUBATION
PERIOD YOU
REPORT.

NOT ONLY
THAT, IT
CONTRADICTS
YOUR CLAIMS
AS TO THE
ROUTE OF
INFECTION!



...

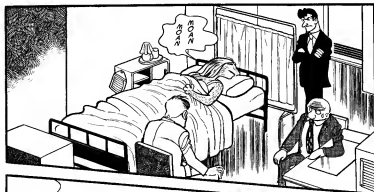
THERE MAY
ALREADY
HAVE BEEN
QUITE A FEW
CASES AMONG
THE CAUCASIAN
POPULATION
OF THE
REGION...

BUT THE WHITES
HAD ISOLATED
THESE PATIENTS
FROM SOCIETY
AND HIDDEN
THEM AWAY IN
DARKNESS IN A
FOOLISH EFFORT
TO KEEP UP
APPEAR-
ANCES!

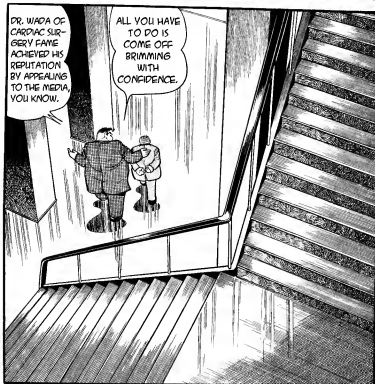


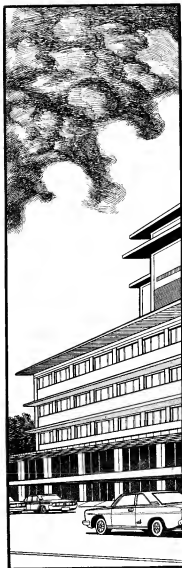
WHAT I'M
DRIVING AT IS
THE POSSIBILITY
THAT KUONAY
KHORALAY DIDN'T
JUST HAPPEN TO
BREAK OUT
IN AN
INDIGENOUS
COLONY...











THE PRESS
CONFERENCE
WILL BE HELD
HERE, IN THE
2F SPECIAL
CONFERENCE
ROOM OF THE
OMURA HOTEL.

IT
STARTS
AT 5:00,
SO WE
STILL
HAVE
AN HOUR.



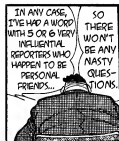
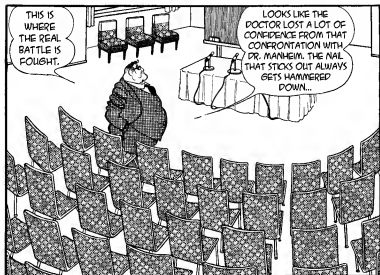
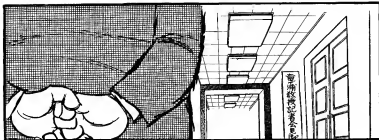
YOU JUST REST FOR
THE NEXT HALF-HOUR.
I'LL SEE TO
EVERYTHING.

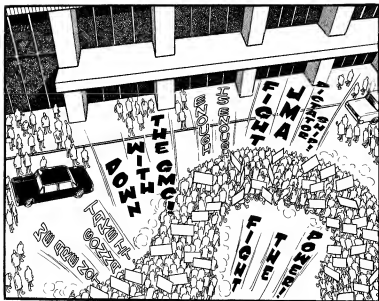


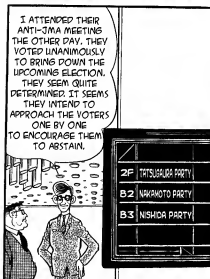
I APPRE-
CIATE IT.
MY HEAD
IS JUST
POUNDING
...

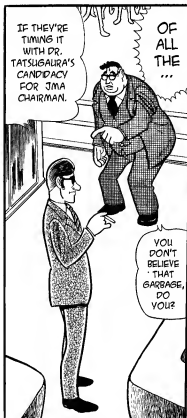
WE WANT
YOU
FEELING
FRESH
AND FINE.

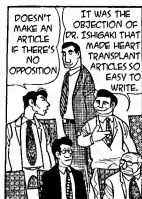
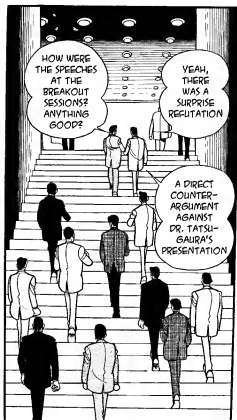


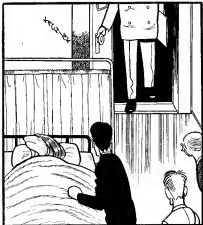


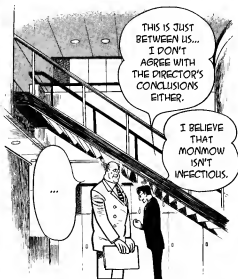




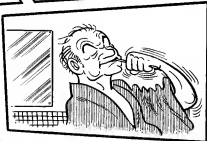


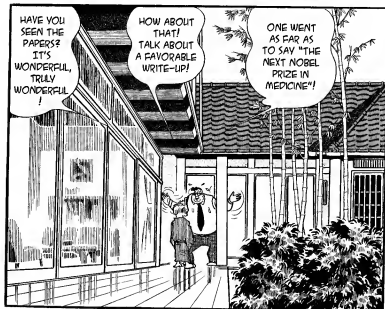
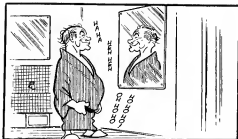


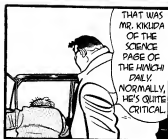






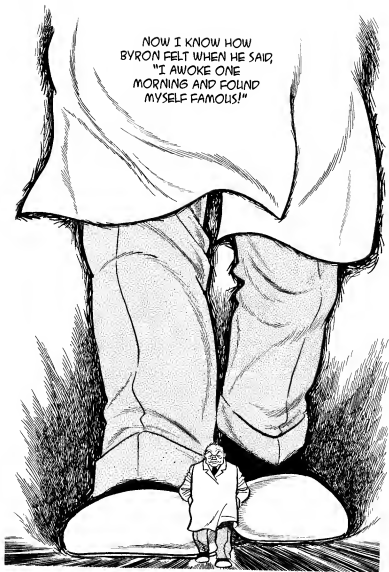




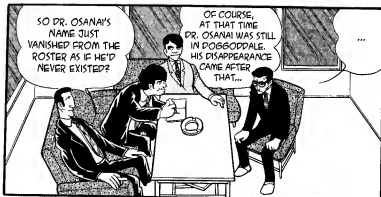


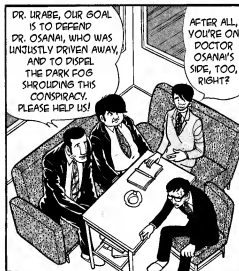


NOW I KNOW HOW
BYRON FELT WHEN HE SAID,
"I AWOKE ONE
MORNING AND FOUND
MYSELF FAMOUS!"









LEAVE ME
ALONE!!!



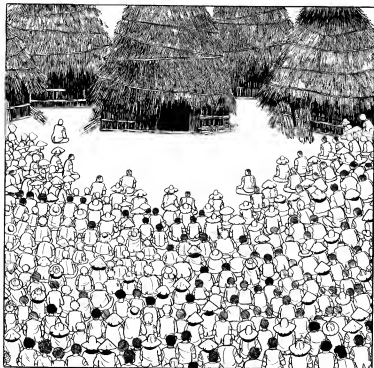


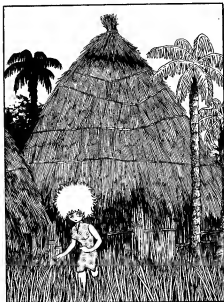
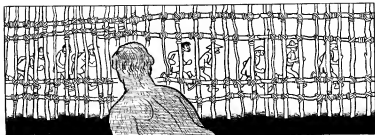
CHAPTER 12

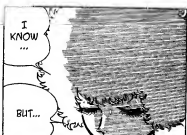
NECROSIS

GAO SHA TRIBAL VILLAGE,
MT. SHENG, TAIWAN









SICK?



YES, IT CAME ON SUDDENLY, LAST NIGHT. HE'S IN TERRIBLE PAIN. THEY'VE SUMMONED A DOCTOR FROM HUALIEN PORT TO TREAT HIM.



HE VOMITS A LOT... AFTERWARDS HE FEELS BETTER FOR A SPELL BUT THEN THE PAIN COMES BACK.

HE DOESN'T PEE AT ALL NOR DO HIS BOWELS MOVE.

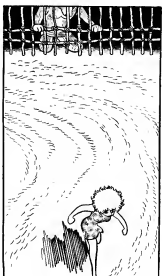
D'YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS?

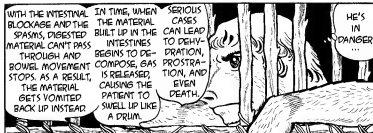
WHAT ARE HIS SYMPTOMS?

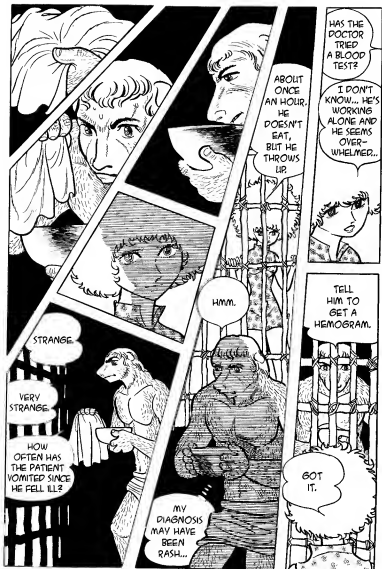


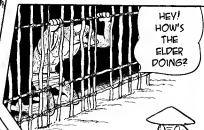
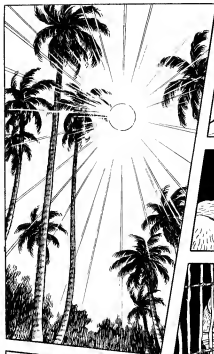
SOUNDS LIKE ILEUS. INTES-TINAL BLOCK-AGE.

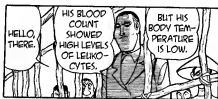
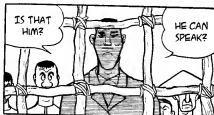










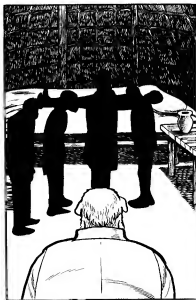






THIS MAN IS A FINE DOCTOR!



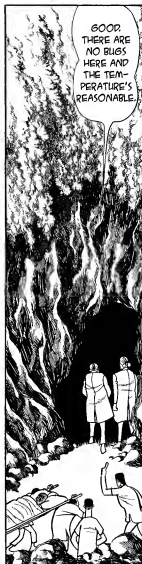








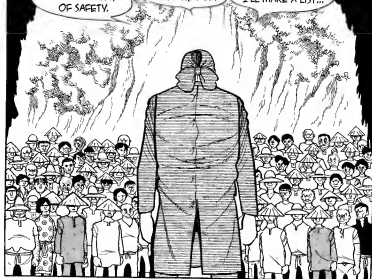




VILLAGERS!
DURING THE OP,
WE WILL NEED
THE CAVE SEALED.
I'D LIKE YOU TO BLOCK
OFF THE ENTRANCE
RIGHT AWAY.
THIS ISN'T ANY SORT
OF SORCERY;
IT'S A MATTER
OF SAFETY.

PLEASE BRING US
ENOUGH WATER
AND FOOD FOR
TWO DAYS! WE
NEED PLENTY OF
WATER IN ORDER
TO MAKE STEAM.
AFTER TWO DAYS,
YOU CAN CLEAR THE
ENTRANCE.

MEANWHILE, PLEASE
SEND SOMEONE WITH
ALL SPEED TO FETCH
A SURGEON FROM
THE HOSPITAL.
WE'LL ALSO NEED
PANCREAS
MEDICINE AND
CARDIOTONICS...
I'LL MAKE A LIST...



IN TWO
DAYS,
WHEN THEY
UNSEAL
THE CAVE

IF THE OLD
MAN HASN'T
MADE IT, WE'RE
GONERS...





NO!
LET ME OUT!
I DON'T WANT TO BE BURIED ALIVE!!

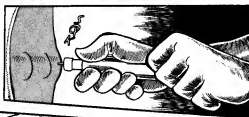


DON'T BE AFRAID. TWO DAYS WILL PASS IN NO TIME.

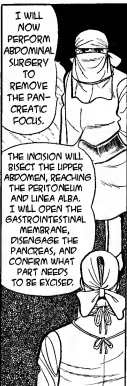
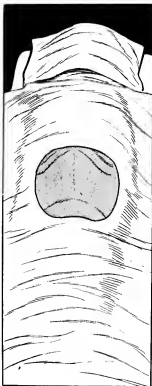
PLEASE, REIKA.



LET'S GET STARTED.

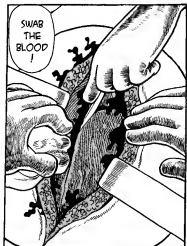


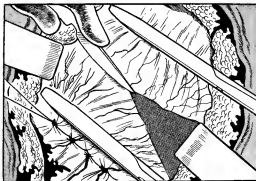




I WILL
NOW
PERFORM
ABDOMINAL
SURGERY
TO
REMOVE
THE PAN-
CREATIC
FOCUS.

THE INCISION WILL
BISECT THE UPPER
ABDOMEN, REACHING
THE PERITONEUM
AND LINEA ALBA.
I WILL OPEN THE
GASTROINTESTINAL
MEMBRANE,
DISENGAGE THE
PANCREAS, AND
CONFIRM WHAT
PART NEEDS
TO BE EXCISED.











KNOCK IT
OFF, YOU
HALFWIT!



YOU CAN'T KILL
THE DOG-MAN
NOW! THE ELDER
AND THE
DOCTOR ARE IN
THERE WITH HIM!

LET ME GO, PA.
YOU WANNA
LET THAT
DOG-MAN
HAVE HIS
WAY WITH
THE ELDER
?



I TOLD
YOU, WE'LL
KILL HIM AS
SOON AS
WE OPEN UP
THE CAVE
IN TWO
DAYS.

BUT PA, I JUST CAN'T
TAKE THE SIGHT OF THAT
DOG-MAN WEARING
PEOPLE CLOTHES AND
PUTTIN' ON AIRS.



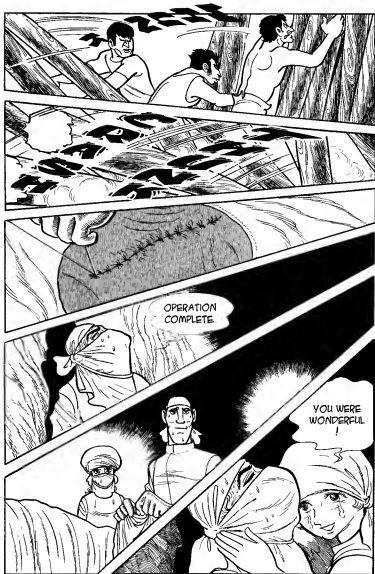
SO ME AND
MY PALS ARE
GONNA KILL
HIM RIGHT NOW.

YOU FOOL!
YOU MIGHT
HURT
THE ELDER
TOO!



NO!

I'M DOWN! THIS
FOR JUSTICE! WE
GOTTA GO IN
THERE AND SAVE
THE ELDER!













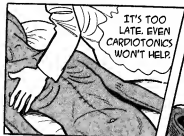
SIR!



HIS
HEART'S
FAILING
!



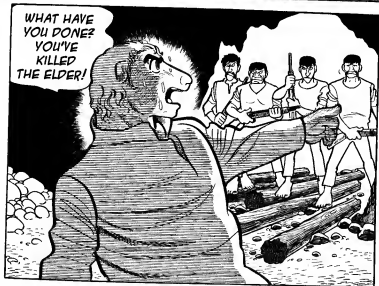
MASSAGE
HIS
HEART!



IT'S TOO
LATE. EVEN
CARDIOTONICS
WON'T HELP.



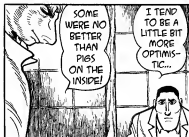
HIS BODY
WENT INTO
SHOCK FROM
GETTING SO
WORKED UP
ON TOP OF THE
STRESS OF
SURGERY.



WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE?
YOU'VE
KILLED
THE ELDER!









HOW
DID
IT GO,
REIKA?



NO
GOOD
!



YOU HAVE
TO RUN!
GET OUT
OF HERE AS
QUICK AS
YOU CAN!



AT THE VILLAGE
GATHERING THEY
DECIDED TO KILL
YOU AFTER ALL.

TO
AVENGE
THE EL-
DER, THEY
SAID!

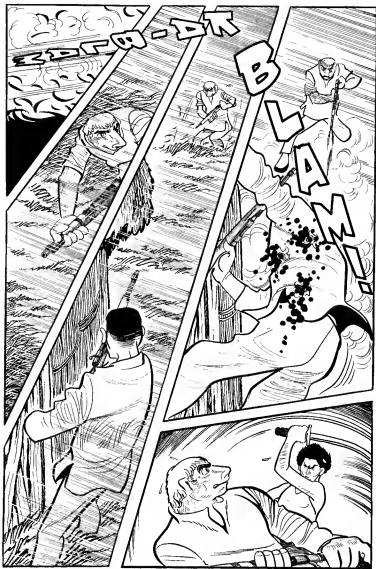


THE YOUNG
CROWD JUST
WOULDN'T
LISTEN TO THE
OLDER FOLK.

FOOLS
!!





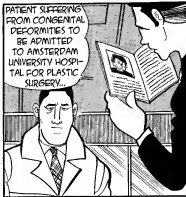
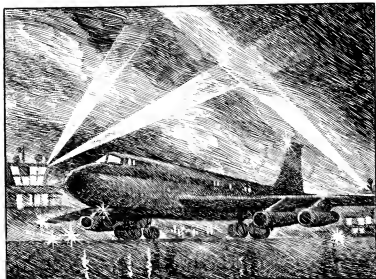




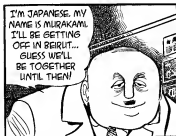


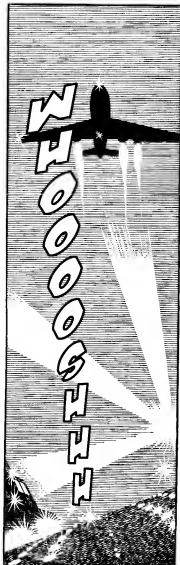
I
KILLED...
TWO
MEN!

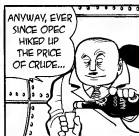
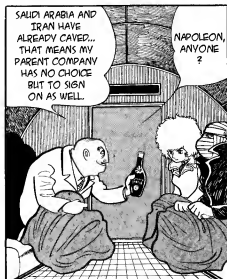




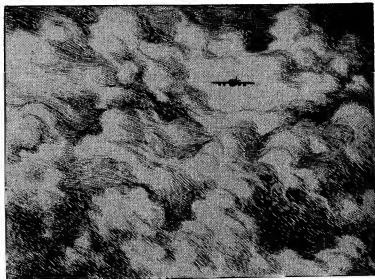




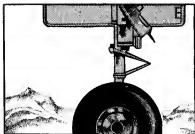


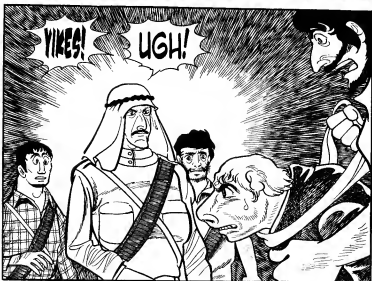


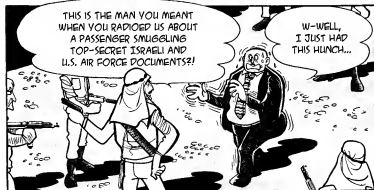




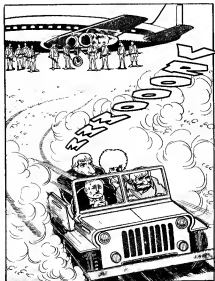


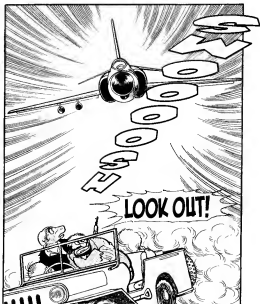






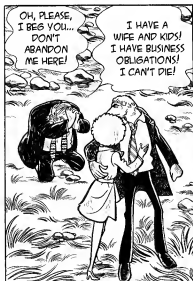


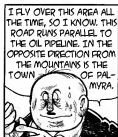














WHY ISN'T THERE
A SINGLE ROAD SIGN?
'CAUSE THE REBS PULL
THEM UP AND
THE SOLDIERS MOW
THEM OVER.



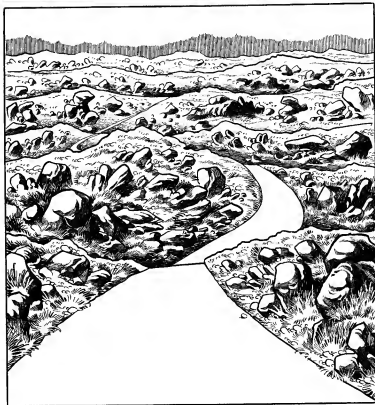
THE ONES
THAT SUFFER
IN THE END ARE
INNOCENT
TRAVELERS!

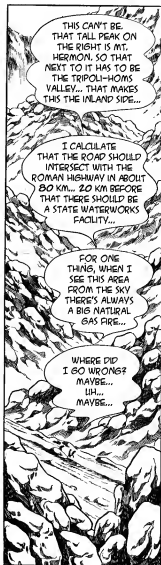


THAT'S ODD... WE
SHOULD HAVE COME
TO THE JUNCTURE
WITH THE ROAD FROM
PALMYRA BY NOW...



HMM...
MAYBE IT'S
JUST A LITTLE
FURTHER
DOWN...





THIS CAN'T BE.
THAT TALL PEAK ON
THE RIGHT IS MT.
HERMON. SO THAT
NEXT TO IT HAS TO BE
THE TRIPOLI-HOMIS
VALLEY... THAT MAKES
THIS THE INLAND SIDE...

I CALCULATE
THAT THE ROAD SHOULD
INTERSECT WITH THE
ROMAN HIGHWAY IN ABOUT
80 KM... 20 KM BEFORE
THAT THERE SHOULD BE
A STATE WATERWORKS
FACILITY...

FOR ONE
THING, WHEN I
SEE THIS AREA
FROM THE SKY
THERE'S ALWAYS
A BIG NATURAL
GAS FIRE...

WHERE DID
I GO WRONG?
MAYBE...
UH...
MAYBE...



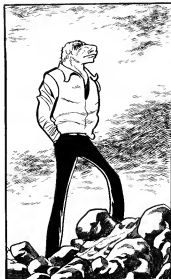
D-
DEA
...



DEAD
END
!

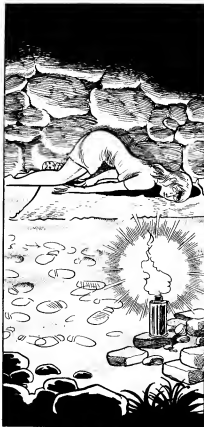


IT'S NOT MY
FAULT! IT'S BECAUSE
THERE ARE NO ROAD
SIGNS! IT'S THE
BLASTED GUERRILLAS!
BOO-HOO-
HOO-HOOOO!













KIRI-
HITO!!!
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
???

YOU'RE
TRYING
TO KILL
HIM??



IF I
DON'T
HE'S ONLY
GOING TO
STARVE TO
DEATH!

I'M
PUTTING
HIM OUT
OF HIS
MISERY!

IT'S
ALL
I CAN
DO!



I'VE
ALREADY
KILLED
TWO
PEOPLE!
I CAN KILL
A THIRD!

STOP!
KIRIHITO!
GIVE ME
THE BABY!



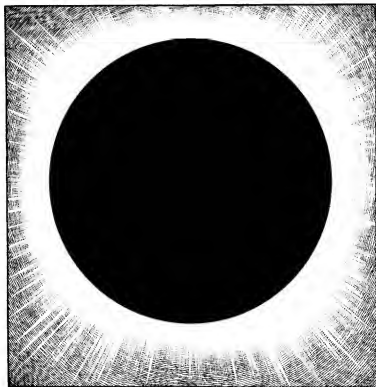
HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN
YOU'RE A
DOCTOR?

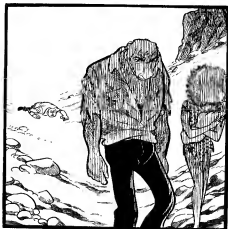




CHAPTER 13

AT THE BAZAAR

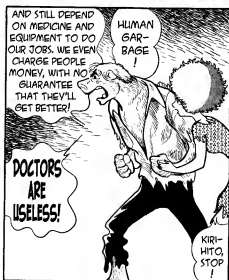






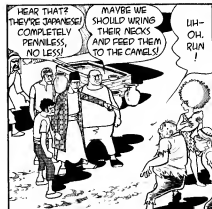


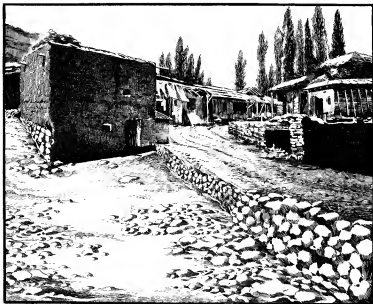


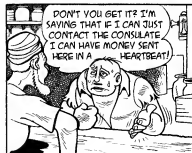
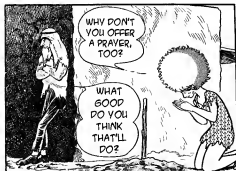


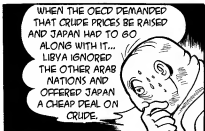




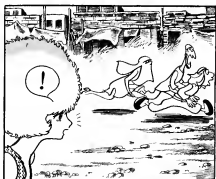


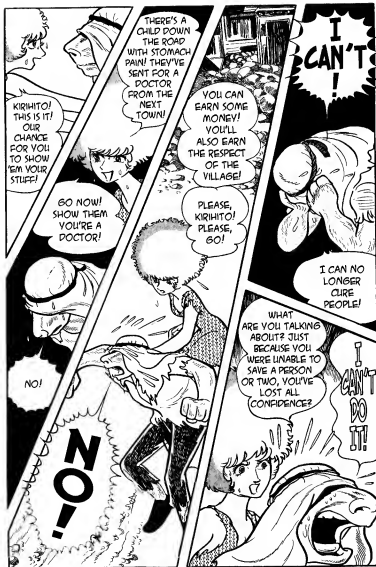












THERE'S A
CHILD DOWN
THE ROAD
WITH STOMACH
PAIN! THEY'VE
SENT FOR A
DOCTOR
FROM THE
NEXT TOWN!

KIRIHITO!
THIS IS IT!
OUR
CHANCE
FOR YOU
TO SHOW
'EM YOUR
STUFF!

GO NOW!
SHOW THEM
YOU'RE A
DOCTOR!

YOU CAN
EARN SOME
MONEY!
YOU'LL
ALSO EARN
THE RESPECT
OF THE
VILLAGE!

PLEASE,
KIRIHITO!
PLEASE,
GO!

I
CAN'T
!

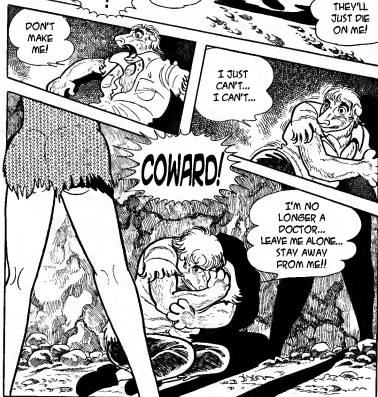
I CAN NO
LONGER
CURE
PEOPLE!

WHAT
ARE YOU TALKING
ABOUT? JUST
BECAUSE YOU
WERE UNABLE TO
SAVE A PERSON
OR TWO, YOU'VE
LOST ALL
CONFIDENCE?

I
CAN'T
DO
IT!

NO!

NO!





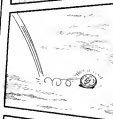
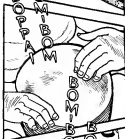


I ASKED
YOU WHERE
REIKA
WENT!











I KNEW YOU'D
BE ANGRY.
BUT JUST THINK
ABOUT IT!

IF YOU COULD
SWALLOW YOUR
PRIDE FOR
THREE HOURS,
WE'D RAKE
IN A PILE!



**YOU WANT
TO MAKE A
SPECTACLE
OF ME?**



**THAT'S
RIGHT!
I AM
TALKING
ABOUT A
SPECTACLE!**

**IT'S THE
ONLY WAY
WE CAN
MAKE
SOME
MONEY!**

**IF YOU
CAN THINK
OF SOME-
THING ELSE,
PLEASE
BE MY
GUEST!**



**YOU
WANT TO
CHARGE
PEOPLE
TO LOOK
AT MY
FACE?**



**WHEN THE
LADY TRIED
TO RAISE
SOME CASH
YOU GOT IN
THE WAY!**

**NOBODY
WANTS
TO GIVE
US WORK!**

**AND
TODAY'S
THE BAZAAR!
PEOPLE ARE
GATHERED
HERE
FROM ALL
AROUND!**



**IF WE
MISS THIS
CHANCE
...**

**WE'LL NEVER
GET ANY
MONEY.
NEVER!**



I KNOW YOU
HATE ME
FOR THIS.
I KNOW IT'S
UNBEARABLY
PAINFUL
FOR YOU.

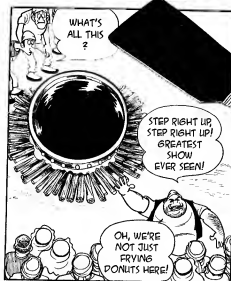


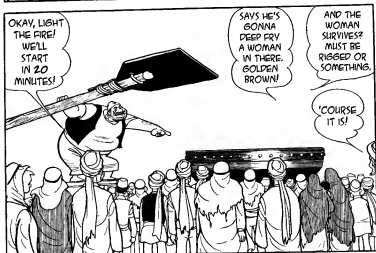
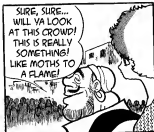
BUT IF WE GET
SOME MONEY,
WE'RE OUT OF
HERE! IT'S ONLY A
TEMPORARY EMBAR-
RASSMENT! ONCE
WE'RE OUTTA HERE,
YOU CAN FORGET
ALL ABOUT IT!

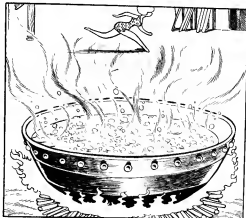


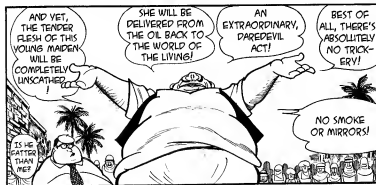
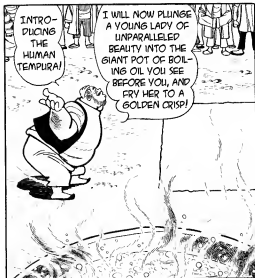
NG-
NG-
NG...

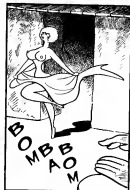
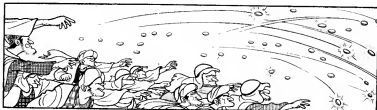
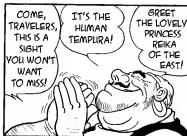




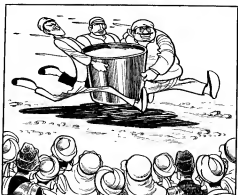


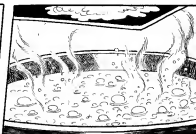
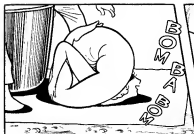


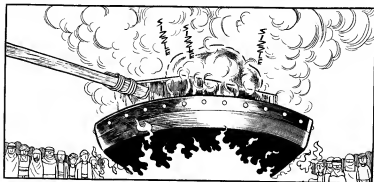
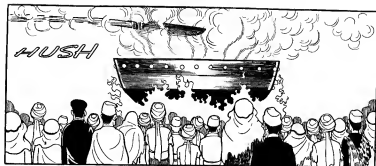














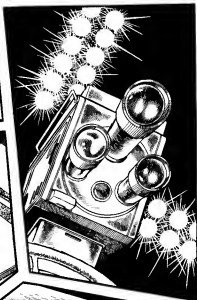






CHAPTER 14

FLASH



IT WASN'T THE TERROR OF CONTAGION ...

NOR THE LURID PUBLIC DISPLAY OF A CASCASIAN PATIENT.

HOTEL WIGWAG

IT WASN'T THE TERROR OF CONTAGION ...

NOR THE LURID PUBLIC DISPLAY OF A CASCASIAN PATIENT.

HOTEL WIGWAG

THE
HINT
OF A
MYST-
ERIOUS
FORCE
THAT
COULD
CAUSE

HUMAN BEINGS, THE MASTERS OF ALL CREATION, TO REGRESS INTO DOGS AND BEASTS.

SOME BEGAN
TO DRAW
APOCALYPTIC
CONCLUSIONS

THEY HELD
THAT THE END
OF THE CENTURY
WOULD BRING
ABOUT A TIME
OF RECKONING
IN WHICH GOD
WOULD JUDGE
HUMANITY.

WAS IT
A SIGN THAT
MAN WAS ON
THE BRINK OF
LOSING HIS
HUMANITY AND
PLUNGING INTO
THE ABYSS?



SOON,
RECORDS
OF
MONMOW
CASES
BEGAN
TO POUR
INTO
DR.
TATSU-
GAIIRA'S
MAILBOX
FROM
AROUND
THE
GLOBE.



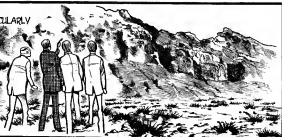
SHOCKINGLY,
THERE SEEMED
TO BE VICTIMS
IN ALMOST
EVERY
COUNTRY.
IN PAR-
TICULAR,
THERE
WAS A
SURGE IN
REPORTS
FROM
CHRISTIAN
NATIONS.



HOW
MANY
PATIENTS
HAD BEEN
CONCEALED
IN DARKNESS
OUT OF
A KIND OF
DIABOLIC
COMPLUSION
— A 20TH
CENTURY
WITCH
HUNT?



IN MEDICAL CIRCLES
WORLDWIDE—PARTICULARLY
IN THE U.S., WHICH
WAS QUICK
TO REACT—
SCHOLARS
RACED TO
GATHER DATA
AND LEARN
MORE ABOUT
THE STRANGE
DISEASE.



INTER-
ESTINGLY
ENOUGH



THERE WAS
QUITE A
GOOD
DEAL OF
EVIDENCE



IN FAVOR
OF DR.
TATSU-
BAIRA'S
THEORY.



RESEARCHERS
ANNOUNCED
THAT THEY
HAD ISO-
LATED
THE PATHO-
GEN.
AND YET...



NONE
OF THE
FINDINGS
PROVED
FINAL.



IN FACT,
THERE
WERE
QUITE A
NUMBER OF
GROUPS

WHO ARGUED THAT MONMOW
WASN'T INFECTIOUS.



DR.
TATSU-
SAURA
WAS
INVITED
TO SPEAK
AT
SCHOOLS
ALL
OVER
THE
WORLD



YOSHINAGA
DECLINED
THE OFFERS,
SENDING
THEM COPIES
OF THE
DOCTOR'S
REPORT
INSTEAD.



HE KNEW IT
WAS WISER FOR
TATSUSAURA
TO STAY
HOME AND
SPEND HIS
TIME GOING
OVER THE
MOUNTAIN
OF REPORTS
THEY WERE
ACCU-
MULATING.

AFTER ALL,
PREPARING
FOR THE
JMA ELECTIONS
WAS MORE
IMPORTANT.



MORE
AIR MAIL?
WHERE'S
THIS ONE
FROM
?



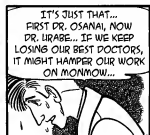
SYRIA.

HOW ABOUT
THAT? IT'S
FROM THE
JAPANESE
EMBASSY
IN SYRIA!



WHAT'S
IT
ABOUT
?







A TYPICAL
CASE OF
SCHIZO-
PHRENIA.

HE
NEEDS
TO BE
HOSPITALIZED

BUT DR. ONIGA-
SHIRA, WE CAN'T
HAVE THAT! YOU
WANT ME TO
ADMIT HIM TO
M UNIVERSITY
HOSPITAL?

LIKE ALL OF OUR
DOCTORS, HE'S
THE PRIMARY CARE
PHYSICIAN FOR
A GOOD NUMBER
OF PATIENTS!

DO YOU KNOW
WHAT WOULD
HAPPEN IF WORD
GOT OUT OF
EVEN A MINOR
PSYCHOLOGICAL
PROBLEM?

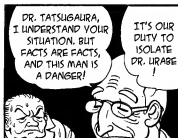
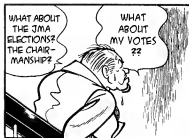
AH, YES.
YOU'LL
NEED TO
REASSIGN HIS
PATIENTS
...

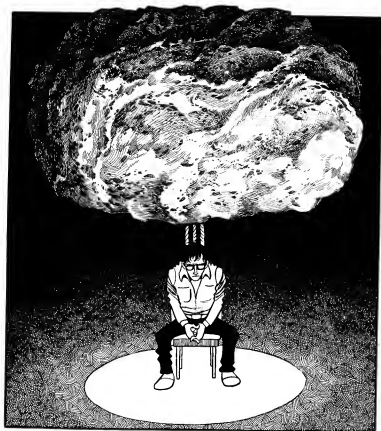
THAT'S
NOT THE
ISSUE!!

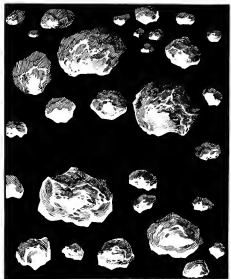
I'M THE
ONE WHO'LL
BE HELD
RESPONSIBLE

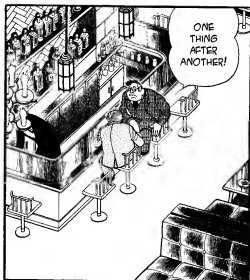
FOR HAVING
LET SUCH A
MAN SEE
PATIENTS

HOW
WILL
THAT
MAKE
ME
LOOK
??













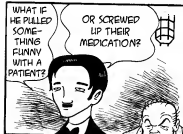
YOU KNOW, SIR, I
OFTEN HEAR ABOUT
TAXI DRIVERS WHO
TURN OUT TO BE
MENTALLY ILL.

BUT A
DOCTOR!
THAT'S A
SHOCKER!



WHAT IF
HE PULLED
SOME-
THING
FUNNY
WITH A
PATIENT?

OR SCREWED
UP THEIR
MEDICATION?



OF COURSE,
EVEN IF HE DID, HE
COULDN'T BE HELD
RESPONSIBLE,
RIGHT?

THAT APPLIES
TO DOCTORS,
TOO,
DOESN'T IT
?



WOULD YOU
SHUT YOUR
MOUTH ALREADY!

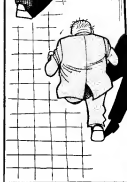


DR.
TATSU-
GAIRA!

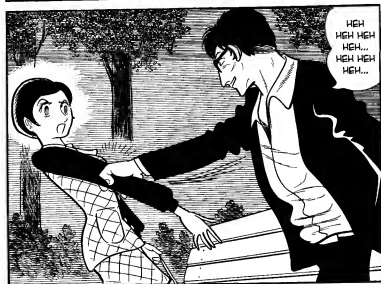


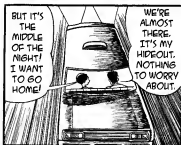
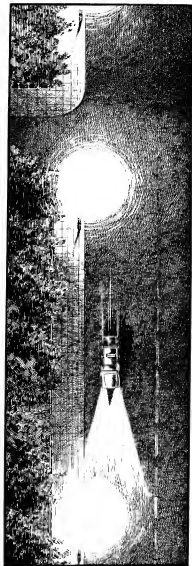
SOMETHING
TERRIBLE
HAS
HAPPENED!



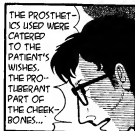




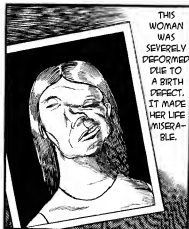
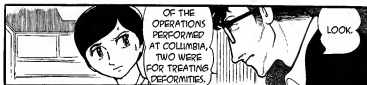










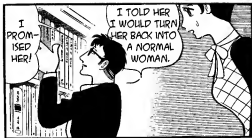


FOR MONMOW PATIENTS, EVEN IF THE DISEASE HAS STOPPED PROGRESSING, IT'S PROBABLY NOT POSSIBLE TO RESTORE THE LONG BONES.

BUT SURELY THEIR DOG-LIKE FACES AND MOUTHS CAN BE FIXED!

I FIND THE RECORDS FROM THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS AT COLUMBIA, AMSTERDAM, AND OH! VERY ENCOURAGING.









MOTHER JUST GOT WORD FROM DR. TATSUGAURA. SHE SAYS YOUR NAME HAS BEEN STRUCK FROM THE M.I.H. ROSTER...

BUT THAT'S NOT ...!

...



I SEE... THIS HAS TO DO WITH MY BEING COMMITTED AT CENTRAL.



SO THEY'RE HAVING ME PEGGED A MENTAL PATIENT ?!

DR. TATSUGAURA IS BEHIND THIS??



WHAT ON EARTH AM I TO DO?



I CAN NO LONGER EXAMINE HELEN? I CAN'T GO SEE HER?



WHAT ON EARTH...



DR. TATSU-
GAURA?
THE MENTOR
I'VE LOOKED
UP TO AND
REVERED?
HE DID THIS
TO ME?



DR.
TATSU-
GAURA
DID THIS
TO ME
?



ANY
LUCK
?

NO...

NOT
THIS ONE
EITHER.

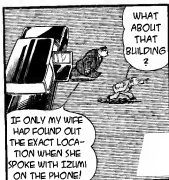
PERHAPS
IT'S
FURTHER
ON.

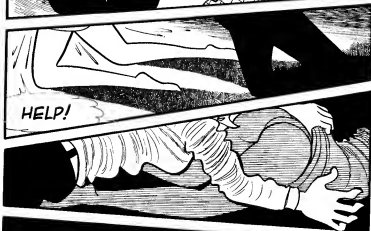
I
CAN'T
BELIEVE
THIS!

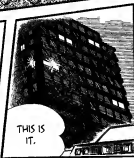
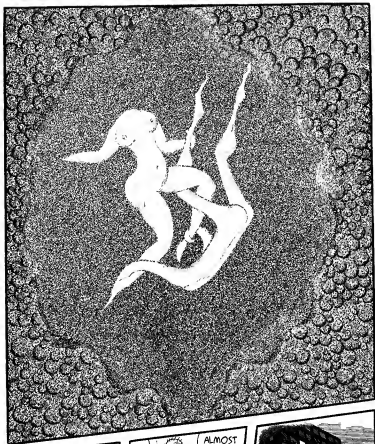
I'M
THE ONE
WHO CAN'T
BELIEVE
THIS!

BUT MY
DAUGH-
TER'S BEEN
KIDNAPPED
!

THIS
IS A
POLICE
MATTER
!



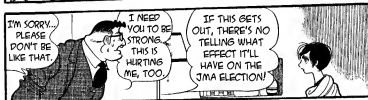


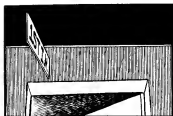






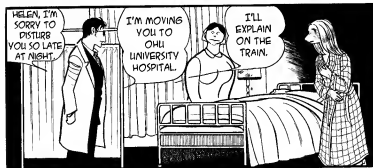








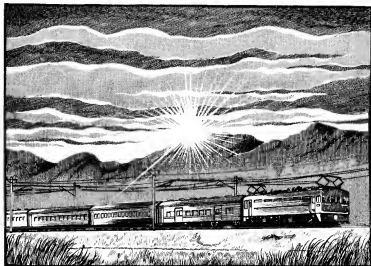
YOU MEAN HELEN FRIESE ?



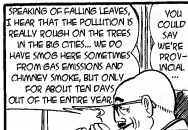


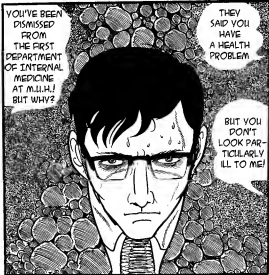
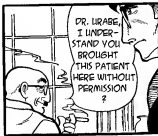
CHAPTER 15

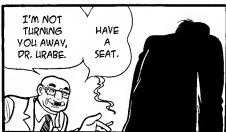
VISIONS OF MARY

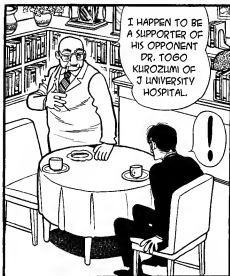










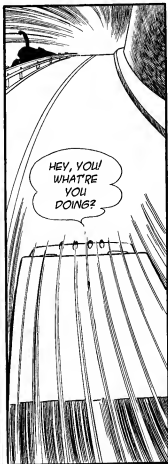




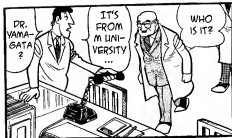




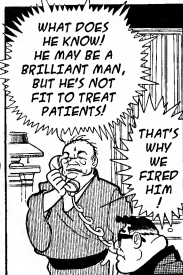




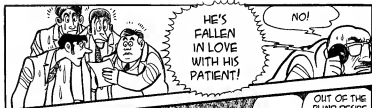




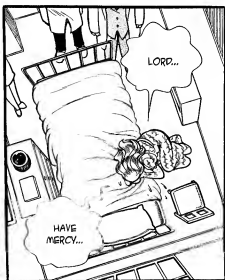
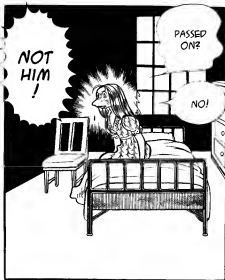
IS OUR MONMOW PATIENT IN YOUR CARE?

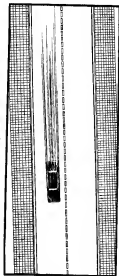
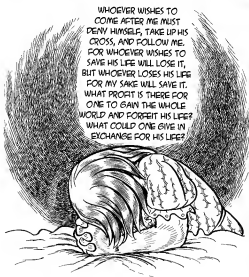
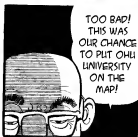
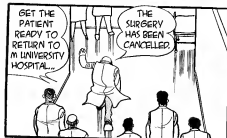








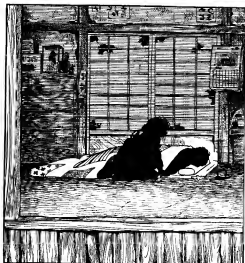


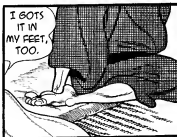


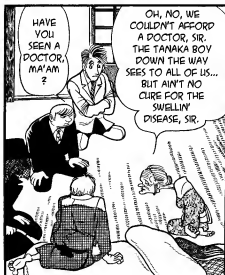


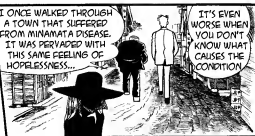


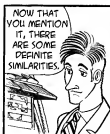
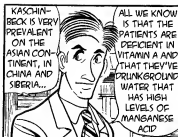






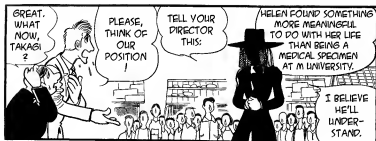




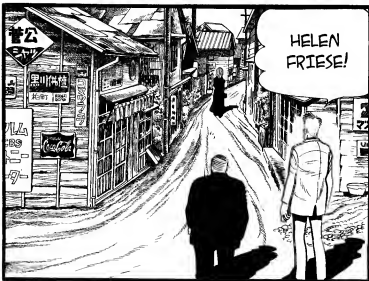






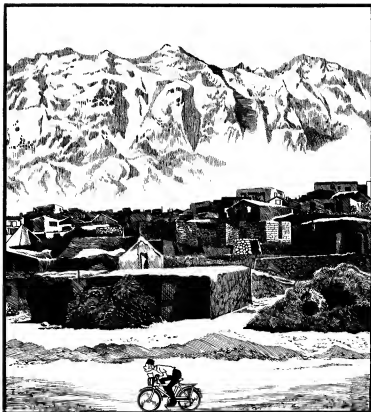




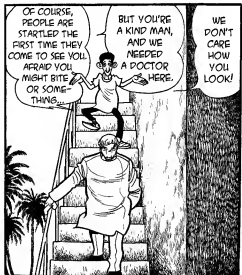


CHAPTER 16

THE JOURNEY HOME













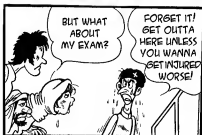


DR. DOB'S
GONE
MAD!



HIS DOG
INSTINCTS
HAVE TAKEN
OVER!

HE BIT
ME!

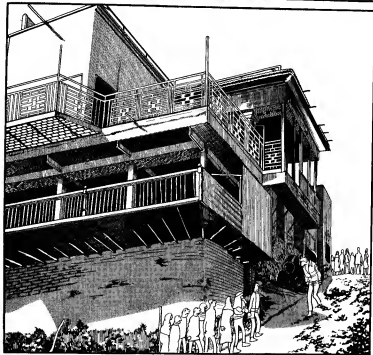


BUT WHAT
ABOUT
MY EXAM?

FORGET IT!
GET OUTTA
HERE UNLESS
YOU WANNA
GET INJURED
WORSE!



HE'S
COMING
OUT!













I CAN'T
ACCEPT THIS!
I HAVE
MONEY OF
MY OWN!



THAT
SHOULD
COVER
YOUR
TRAVEL
COSTS.



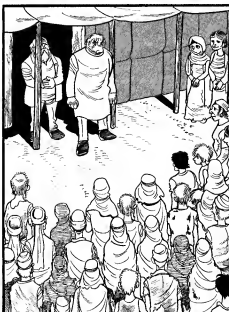
WE'VE
TALKED IT
OVER, AND
WE AGREE
THAT YOU
SHOULD
GO TO
JAPAN.



BUT DOC-
TOR! IT'S
A TOKEN
OF OUR
ESTEEM!



IN EXCHANGE, WE
ASK THAT WHEN YOU
FINISH YOUR BUSINESS
IN JAPAN, YOU KINDLY
CONSIDER RETURNING
TO OUR VILLAGE.



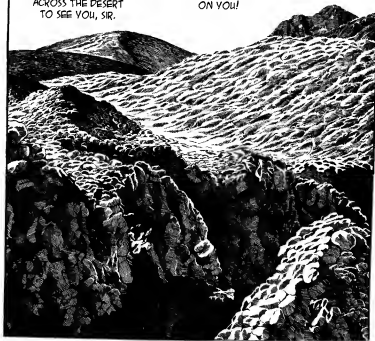
THIS AREA IS
INHABITED BY
REFUGEES. WE
HARDLY RECEIVE
ANY GOVERN-
MENT AID.



IF YOU LEAVE,
WE'LL PROBABLY
NEVER GET
A NEW DOCTOR
TO COME
OUT HERE.

LOOK AT THIS OLD MAN.
HE WALKED BAREFOOT
FOR THREE WHOLE DAYS
ACROSS THE DESERT
TO SEE YOU, SIR.

WE ALL
DEPEND
ON YOU!



EVERYONE
SUPPORTS
YOUR JOURNEY
HOME.

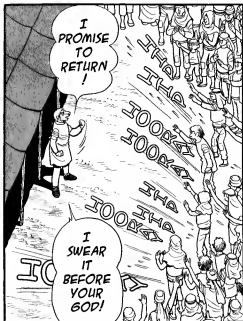


SIR, THE
VILLAGE WILL
PROVIDE YOU
WITH HORSES
TO TRAVEL TO
ALEPPO. FROM
THERE YOU CAN
GET ON A BUS
TO LATTAKIA
PORT. ALI WILL
ACCOMPANY
YOU.

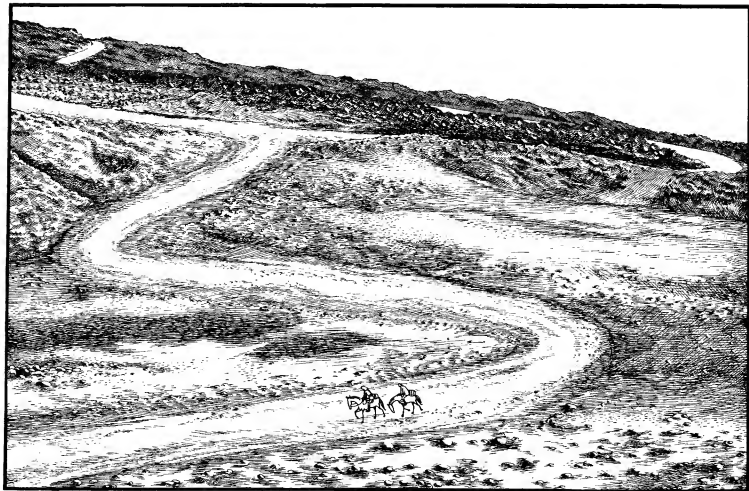


I HAVE
A FRIEND
WHO'S
CAPTAIN
OF A
FREIGHT
SHIP.
ALI WILL
BARGAIN
FOR YOU.

WE WANT
YOU
TO GO.







CHAPTER 17

ENCOUNTERS

PART 1



YOU CALL
YOURSELVES
MEMBERS
OF THIS
DEPART-
MENT??



I ASKED
YOU TO
ASSUME
RESPON-
SIBILITY FOR
A PATIENT
OF M
UNIVERSITY
HOSPITAL.

YOU SAY
YOU LEFT HER
IN SOME
VILLAGE?
EVEN A CHILD
WOULDN'T
MAKE SUCH
A LAME
EXCUSE!

JUST
WHAT
DO
YOU
INTEND
TO DO
ABOUT
THIS?!

WE COULD
PETITION THE
LOCAL CLINIC OR
POLICE AND ASK
THEM TO TAKE HER
INTO CUSTODY...



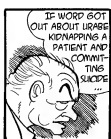
YOU WANT TO
ESCALATE THINGS
FURTHER? DO
YOU REALIZE HOW
HARD I'VE BEEN
WORKING TO
KEEP ALL OF
THESE SCANDALS
AROUND
HERE UNDER
WRAPS?



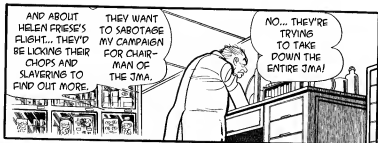
BUT
I DON'T
THINK HAVING
HELEN FRIESE
TAKEN INTO
CUSTODY
WOULD
AFFECT
YOUR REPU-
TATION,
DOCTOR...



YOU CLEARLY
DON'T REALIZE
HOW PERSISTENT
THE YOUNG
DOCTORS LEAGUE
HAS BECOME.



IF WORD GOT
OUT ABOUT URAGE
KIDNAPPING A
PATIENT AND
COMMIT-
TING SUICIDE
...



HELLO, MR. YOSHINAGA. SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING. WHAT'S THE STORY?



THE THIRD COMPUTER TALLY IS IN.

YOU HAVE 42% OF THE VOTES OF THE DELEGATES.

STILL NOT A MAJORITY? WHAT ABOUT KUROZUMI?



HE'S CATCHING UP. HE'S LEADING IN THE TOHOKU REGION. HE'S AT 35%, TWO POINTS UP FROM THE LAST TALLY.



THE FORENSICS PROF DR. SEKISUCHI HAS 8%, AND CANCER AUTHORITY DR. INUI HAS 6%. THEY'RE NO THREAT. THE REAL RACE IS BETWEEN YOU AND DR. KUROZUMI.

THE SUSPENSE IS KILLING ME!



LEAVE IT TO ME. IF NOTHING GOES WRONG, I'M SURE WE CAN CARRY OFF OVER 50% OF THE VOTES. I'M POURING IT ON TO SWAY THE SWING VOTERS.

FUNNY YOU SHOULD MENTION SOMETHING GOING WRONG...



WHAT?! DON'T SCARE ME!

IT'S FINE. I ALREADY TOOK CARE OF IT.

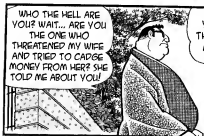
KUROZUMI



HOW CAN SO MANY THINGS GO WRONG RIGHT AT THIS CRUCIAL TIME!

TCH K





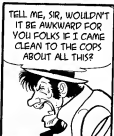
YES,
THAT'S
ME!







WHEN HE STAYED
AT THE INN AT
THE ZABOU HOT
SPRINGS, HE
WROTE THE
NAME OSANAI
IN THE REG-
ISTRY.



TELL ME, SIR, WOULDN'T
IT BE AWKWARD FOR
YOU FOLKS IF I CAME
CLEAN TO THE COPS
ABOUT ALL THIS?



AS IF
THE
POLICE
WOULD
BELIEVE
YOU!

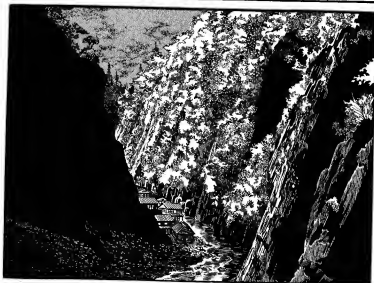
YOU DON'T
HAVE ANY
PROOF!
THEY'LL JUST
TURN YOU
AWAY AS A
RACKETEER.



AM I RIGHT? IF
YOU HAVE PROOF,
GO AHEAD AND
SHOW ME! I'LL BUY
IT FROM YOU!

FINE! IF
YOU WANT
PROOF,
I'LL GO
FIND SOME!

WHEN I
DO, DON'T
LOSE
YOUR
COOL ON
ME, MISTER!





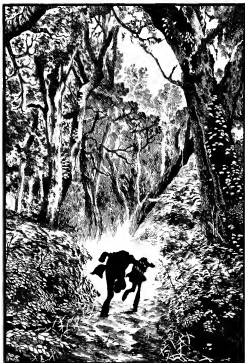








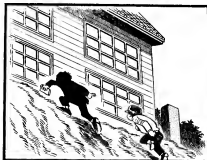
















THERE WAS AN ERROR IN THE NOTE. IT SHOULD HAVE READ, "I NEED TO SPEAK WITH YOU IN SECRET IMMEDIATELY ABOUT THE TATSUGAURA DEAL. --O"

WAS IT ALL PLANNED OUT FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, MAYOR?

N-NO ...

I ALREADY KNOW EVERYTHING, MAYOR. YOU'RE ONLY HURTING YOURSELF BY LYING.

I-I-I...

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!
I WASN'T INVOLVED!

HELP!
SOME-
BODY!



I THINK YOU SEE NOW THAT I'M SERIOUS. IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE

YOU'LL CONFESS EVERYTHING INTO THIS TAPE RECORDER.

WHIMPER

W-WHEN OLD MAN VOKOTA WAS HOSPITALIZED FOR YOU-KNOW-WHAT, DR. TATSUGAURA PROPOSED A SECRET ARRANGEMENT.

SAID HE WANTED
TO SEND A DOCTOR
NAMED OSANAI TO
MY VILLAGE. A MAN
WHO WAS SMART,
BUT IDEALISTIC...
AN UNBALANCED
GUY...

YES,
"UNBALANCED"
WAS
THE WORD
HE USED.

HE TOLD ME
NOT TO LET
YOU LEAVE
THE VILLAGE!
TO WATCH OVER
YOU AND REPORT
EVERYTHING
YOU DID!

AND THAT
IF I COULD...
I SHOULD
EXPOSE
YOU TO YOU-
KNOW-
WHAT.

OF COURSE
I SAID NO. I TOLD HIM
THAT NO MATTER
HOW MUCH HE PAID,
I COULDN'T
DO SUCH A THING,
NOT EVEN FOR
A BENEFACTOR LIKE
DR. TATSUGAURA.

HE
OFFERED
YOU
MONEY?

YES
...

DR. TATSUGAURA
OFFERED TO DONATE
3 MILLION YEN OUT
OF HIS POCKET TO
DOGGODDALE—
"PUBLIC WELFARE,"
HE SAID.

AND?

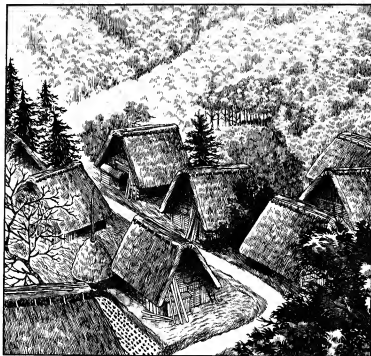
DOCTOR... WE'RE
A POOR VILLAGE...
WHEN I SAW ALL
THAT MONEY
IN FRONT OF
ME... I JUST...

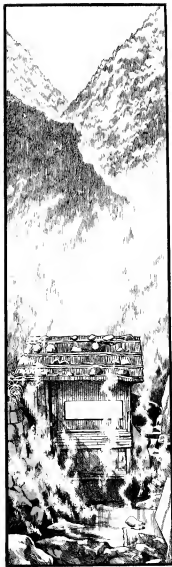
I HAD NO
CHOICE BUT TO
ACCEPT.

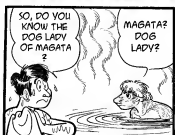
WHEN
WAS THIS?

THIS WAS
TWO MONTHS
BEFORE
YOU CAME.







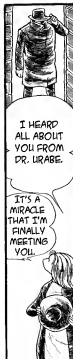












I HEARD
ALL ABOUT
YOU FROM
DR. URABE.

IT'S A
MIRACLE
THAT I'M
FINALLY
MEETING
YOU.



DR.
URABE...
DEAD?

I HAD
NO IDEA.

THE LORD
SUMMONED
HIM A
MONTH
AGO.

HE WAS
A GOOD
MAN...

WHEN HE
LEARNED
YOU HAD
MONMOW,
HE TRIED
HIS BEST TO
FIND YOU.



HELEN...
DON'T YOU
LOSE THE
WILL TO
CONTINUE?



DOING THIS
THANKLESS
WORK... HOW
ON EARTH DO
YOU FIND JOY
IN LIVING?

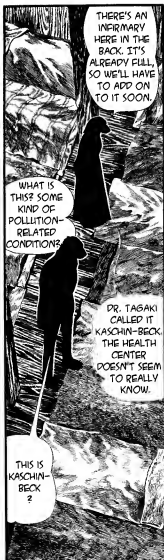
OF COURSE
I'VE FELT
THAT WAY
MANY TIMES.

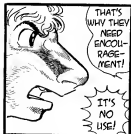
BUT I'M
SATISFIED
HERE.

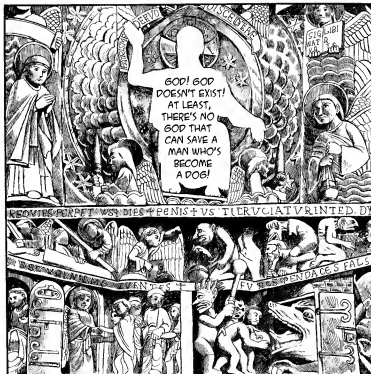


BUT WHY?









I'M SORRY...
THAT WAS
WRONG OF
ME. I FOR-
GOT THIS WAS
A CHURCH.

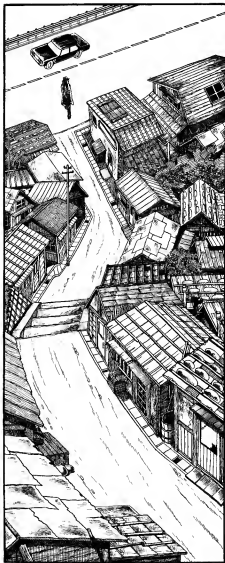
I DIDN'T
COME HERE
TO CURSE
THIS PLACE.

I JUST WANTED
TO KNOW
WHAT YOUR
OUTLOOK
ON LIFE WAS.

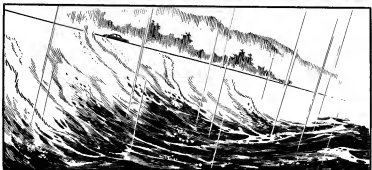
ARE YOU
GOING
BACK TO
THE
HOSPITAL,
DOCTOR
?

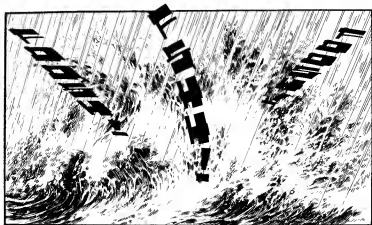
NO...
I'LL BE
LEAVING
JAPAN
AGAIN.

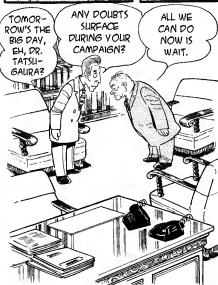
I HAVE
PATIENTS
WAITING
FOR MY
RETURN.











TOMORROW'S THE BIG DAY, EH, DR. TATSU-GAURA?

ANY DOUBTS SURFACE DURING YOUR CAMPAIGN?

ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS WAIT.

IT SEEMS THE REAL RACE IS BETWEEN YOU AND DR. KUROZUMI.

WELL, THERE'S REALLY NO KNOWING. HAH HA...



I SUPPOSE EITHER YOU OR DR. KUROZUMI WILL HAVE TO TAKE OVER THIS HUGE MOUNTAIN OF PAPERWORK.

THERE'S PILES OF IT ABOUT MEDICAL COSTS AND OTHER MATTERS.



I ENVIED YOU, DR. TATSU-GAURA.



WHENEVER I HEARD ABOUT YOUR MONMOW RESEARCH, A PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN DISEASE...

I FELT PATHETIC, ALWAYS WRAPPED UP IN POLITICAL MANEUVERING AND NEGOTIATING EVEN THOUGH IT WAS MY JOB.



OF COURSE, THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH SOME DOCTORS BEING POLITICIANS

BUT IT'S A SHAME THAT MEN WITH IMPRESSIVE SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENTS LIKE YOU AND DR. KUROZUMI NEED TO GIVE IT ALL UP FOR POLITICS.



AS FAR AS MONMOW GOES, THE YOUNG FOLK WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO RUN WITH THE BALL NOW.



IT'S FINE FOR A DOCTOR LIKE ME WITH NO SPECIAL TALENTS TO SPEND ALL HIS TIME ORGANIZING MEETINGS AND CONFERRING ABOUT THIS AND THAT.



BUT YOU'RE DIFFERENT!

THIS JOB CAN BE QUITE TAXING PSYCHOLOGICALLY.



FOR ONE THING, THE UNION HAS NO IDEA HOW THINGS REALLY WORK

AND THE COUNCIL MEMBERS ALL WANT TO DO EVERYTHING THEIR OWN WAY



CHAIRMAN, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU THINK I'D BE BETTER OFF SHUT UP IN A LABORATORY UNTIL THE END OF MY DAYS!

HA HA HA HA



OF COURSE, A DOCTOR CAN'T ALWAYS STAY IN HIS IVORY TOWER



LIGH!

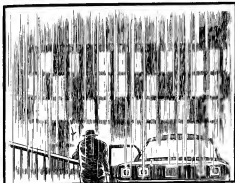


ARGH!!
NGNGG!

W-WHAT'S
WRONG,
DR. TATSU-
GALIRA?





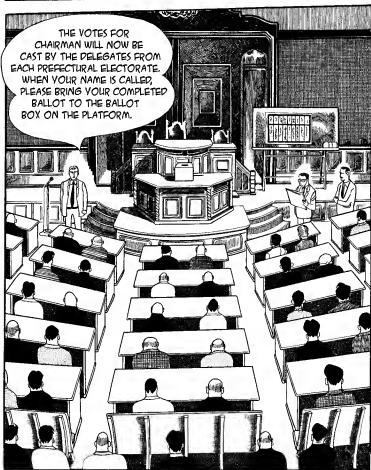


CHAPTER 18

ENCOUNTERS

PART 2





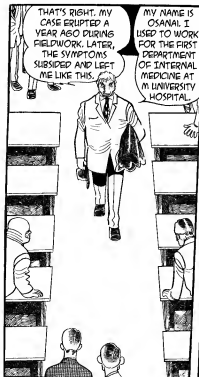
JMA CHAIRMAN ELECTIONS TAKE PLACE EVERY OTHER YEAR. RATHER THAN HAVE ALL 100,000 MEMBERS VOTE, A TWO-TIER PROCESS IS CONDUCTED IN WHICH 200 DELEGATES PLAY A ROLE.

FIRST, A DELEGATE IS CHOSEN FOR EVERY 500 DOCTORS. THAT DELEGATE IS VESTED WITH THE AUTHORITY TO VOTE FOR CHAIRMAN.

THE ELECTION LITERALLY DETERMINES WHO WILL SERVE AS THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF FOR ALL OF JAPAN'S DOCTORS.







LAST FALL, BEFORE
I DEVELOPED
THE DISEASE,
I SUBMITTED
A REPORT TO
DR. TATSUGAURA
CONTENDING
THAT MONNOW
WAS A LOCALIZED
CONDITION.

LATER, WHEN I
CONDUCTED
AN ON-SITE
INVESTIGATION,
IT BECAME
CLEAR THAT MY
HYPOTHESIS HAD
BEEN CORRECT.
BUT THE
RECORDS WERE
WIPE OUT!



WHY
?

I
DON'T
KNOW
WHY.
BEYOND
THAT
...



WITHOUT
MY KNOW-
EDGE, MY
NAME WAS
STRICKEN
FROM
THE
HOSPITAL
ROSTER.

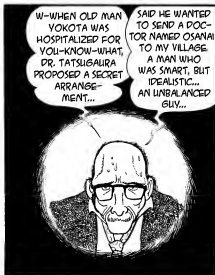
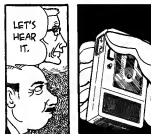
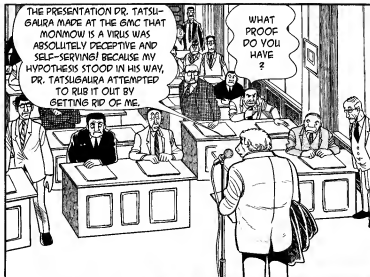


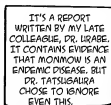
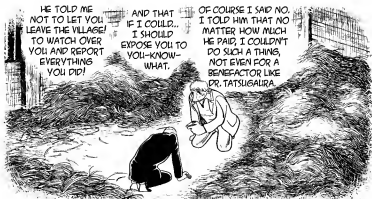
WHAT?!

AND YOU
ALREADY
HAD

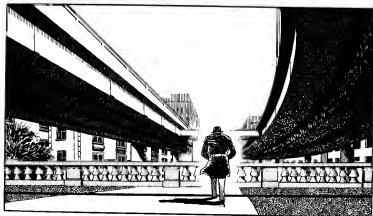


I DID.
I FOUND
MYSELF
UNABLE TO
RETURN
TO M UNI-
VERSITY.

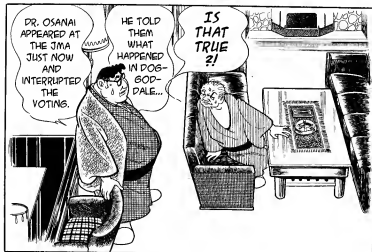












HE TOLD
THEM
WHAT
HAPPENED
IN DOG-
GOD-
DALE...

IS
THAT
TRUE
?!



OSANAI'S
BACK IN
JAPAN!

I DIDN'T
KNOW
HE WAS
STILL
ALIVE!



I WAS
A FOOL!
I WAS
SUCH AN
IDIOT!

HOW
COULD I
BE SO
CARELESS
?



YOSHI-
NAGA!
HELP ME,
I BEG
YOU!

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO
?



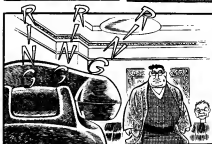
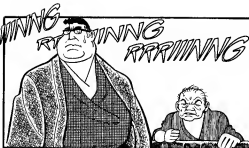
I'LL NEVER
BE ABLE TO
SHOW MY
FACE AGAIN!
I'LL BE
SUED!



I'M DONE
FOR...
IF HE
TOLD THEM
ABOUT
WHAT I
DID...



HE KNOWS
EVERYTHING!
THAT'S WHY
HE SHOWED UP
ON ELECTION
DAY!



THIS IS THE ELECTION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE. DR. TATSUGAURA HAS BEEN ELECTED CHAIRMAN.

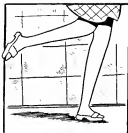
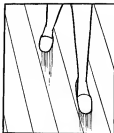
IT WAS A CLOSE RACE, BUT HE BEAT DR. KUROZUMI BY THREE VOTES! CONGRATULATIONS!

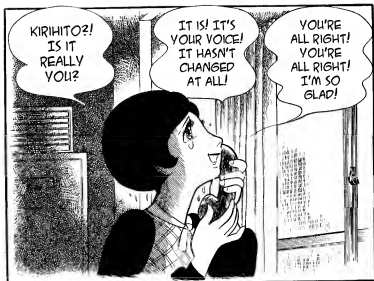
















WHY?

I'M SORRY

IT WOULD BE MAKING EXCUSES TO CALL IT FATE... IT WAS SOMETHING I HAD TO DO.



AND... THIS WIFE OF YOURS...

YES, SHE'S VERY GOOD TO ME.

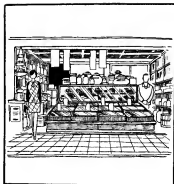


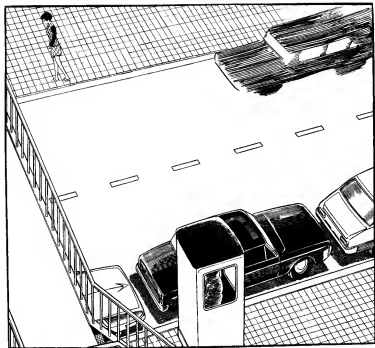
YOU SEE NOW, DON'T YOU? YOU MUST FORGET ME. WE MUST LIVE IN SEPARATE WORLDS.

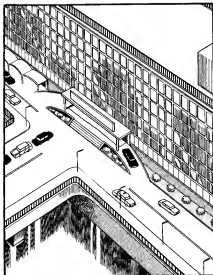
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.

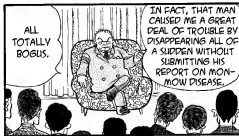


KIRIHITO,
JUST
ONE LAST
KISS...



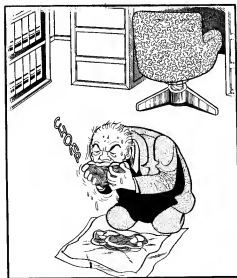


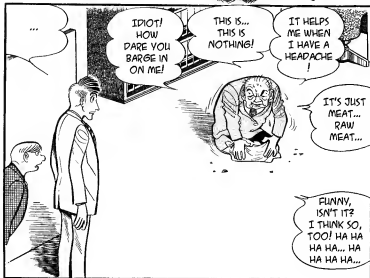












CHAPTER 19

CATASTROPHE



I'M EXHAUSTED FROM THE BURDEN I'VE SHOULDERED THIS PAST YEAR.

DR. TATSU-GAURA WAS ELECTED, JUST AS YOU'D HOPED. YOU MUST BE VERY PLEASED!



IT'LL BE CHILLY TONIGHT, DEAR.

I RAN THE BATH EXTRA HOT.

AH, THANK YOU.



HE'S ON HIS OWN NOW!

OF COURSE, I CAN CASH IN NOW ON THE FAVORS HE OWES ME!



HE'LL COMMAND A BILLION YEN PER YEAR! THAT'S WHAT I BARGAINED ON THIS WHOLE TIME.



WILL YOU CALL IZUMI? SHE'S HAD A ROUGH TIME OF IT, TOO.

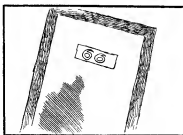
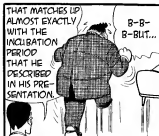
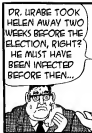


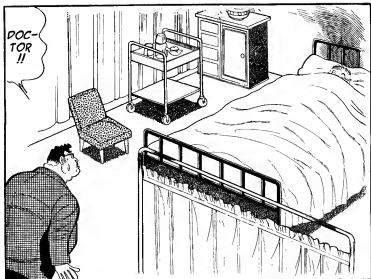


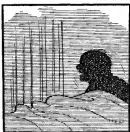
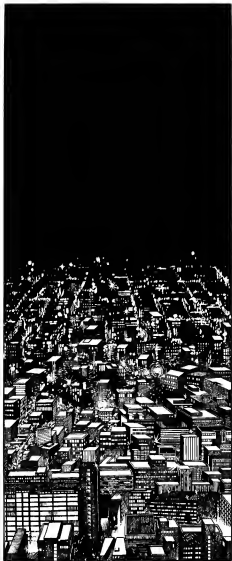
THANK
YOU FOR
EVERYTHING.
PLEASE FORGIVE
ME FOR SETTING
OFF ON MY OWN.
I RECEIVED A
PHONE CALL FROM
MR. OSANAI.
AT THAT MOMENT,
I REALIZED THAT—
I'M TERRIBLY
SORRY
BUT I CAN'T



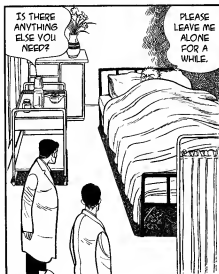




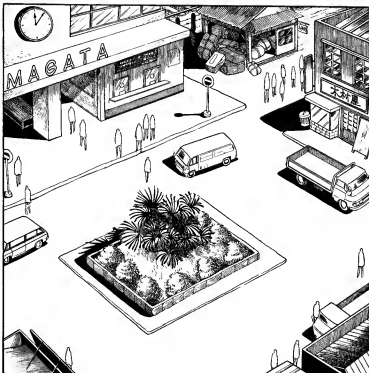


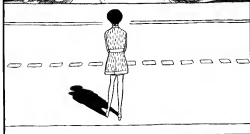
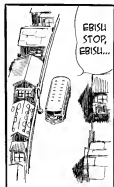














'CAUSE EV'RY MONTH SOME-
BODY GETS STRUCK DOWN
BY THE SWELLIN' SICKNESS.
WHO'S IT GONNA
BE THIS MONTH?
AIN'T POLLUTION
SO NO USE
BLAMIN' THE
FACTORY.



HAVE
YOU
THOUGHT
ABOUT
MOVING
AWAY
?



MOVE AWAY? WITH
TIMES SO HARD, WHAT
WE GONNA
EAT IF WE
DO? WE'RE
BARELY
SCRAPIN'
BY WORKIN'
HERE
AT THE
FACTORY.



DOES IT
GIVE YOU
COMFORT
TO PRAY?

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
IT DOES. BUT
IF SOME-
ONE'S GONNA
SAVE US, GOD
OR WHOEVER,
WE SURE
COULD
USE IT.



WHO'S
THERE
?



AH! I KNOW
THE NAME
WELL.
DR. OSANAI
WAS JUST
HERE THE
OTHER DAY...

REALLY
?



HOW
WAS
HE?



SISTER
HELEN
FRIESE!
I'M YOSHI-
NAGA'S
DAUGHTER,
FIANCEE
OF DR.
OSANAI

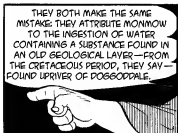


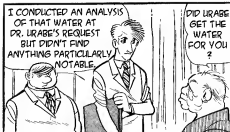
HE WAS
SUFFERING.
HE
WANTED
TO SPEAK
WITH
ME...







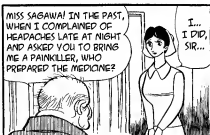


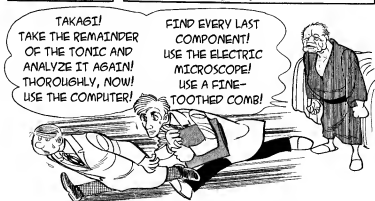


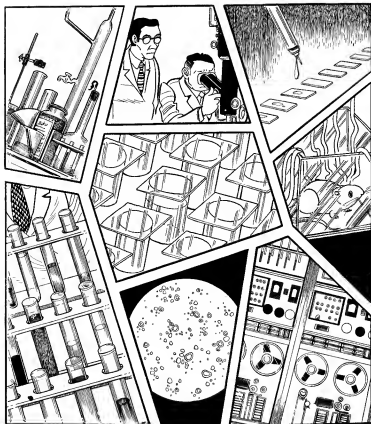
DID URABE GET THE WATER FOR YOU?

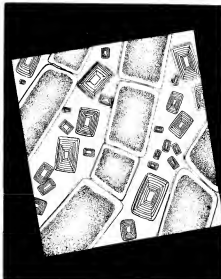
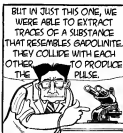


I THINK SO.









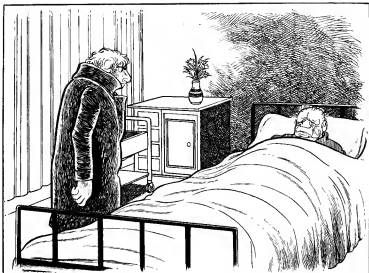


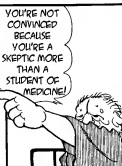


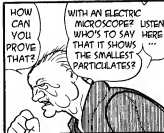


I MUST BE THE MOST MISERABLE, WRETCHED MAN ON EARTH! MY LIFELONG DREAM OF BECOMING CHAIRMAN OF THE JMA, SNATCHED RIGHT OUT OF MY HANDS! I'VE CONTRACTED MONMOW AND I CAN NO LONGER EVEN SHOW MY FACE IN PUBLIC!









NO!!



IT'S TRUE
THAT I TRIED TO
STRANGLE MAHN.
BUT DON'T
THINK THAT'S
HOW HE
CONTRACTED
THE DISEASE!



MAHN? THAT
WAS THE PATIENT'S
NAME? THEN WHY
NOT TAKE A LOOK
AT HIS CHART?

TWO WEEKS
AFTER YOU
ASSAULTED HIM...



MAHN DETECTED
THE ONSET OF
SYMPTOMS.

WHAT OTHER
POSSIBLE ROUTE
COULD THERE HAVE
BEEN? FOR AN
ENTIRE MONTH
PRIOR HE HADN'T
LEFT TAIPEI!



BUT
BEFORE
THAT,
MAHN...



THAT'S
RIGHT!
HE WAS
ON THE
SHIP!



HE WAS
ON THE
SHIP FROM
JAPAN TO
TAIWAN!



I SAW
HIM
DOWN IN
THE SHIP'S
HOLD!

WE'D
BEEN IN
JAPAN
!



WHY
DIDN'T I
REALIZE
SOONER
?

IT WAS
NEAR
DOGGOD-
GODDALE
THAT
THE GANG
OF THUGS
JUMPED
ME!

WHEN I
CAME TO,
I WAS ON
THE SHIP!

AND
SO WAS
HE!

MAYBE HE
VISITED THE
ZABOU HOT
SPRING NEAR
DOGGOD-
DALE!

HE COULD
HAVE
DRUNK
THE
TAINTED
WATER
THERE!



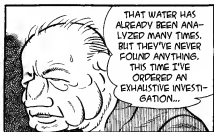
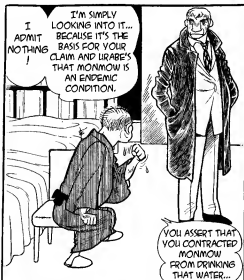
HOW DO
YOU GET
OFF...

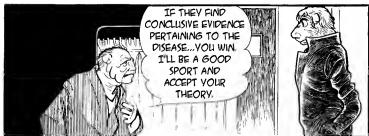
DRAWING SUCH
ARBITRARY
CONCLUSIONS!

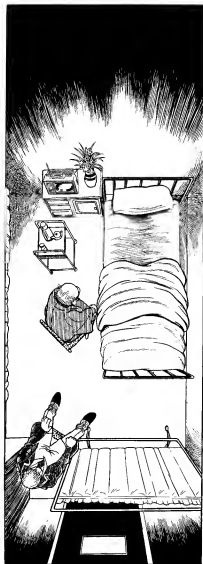
YOU'RE CONVINCED
IN YOUR REPORT
THAT THE WATER
FROM DOGGODDALE
IS THE CULPRIT
BEHIND MONMOW
DISEASE

AND YOU'LL
GO TO ANY
LENGTHS TO
CONNECT
A TO B!











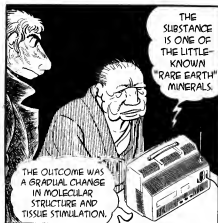
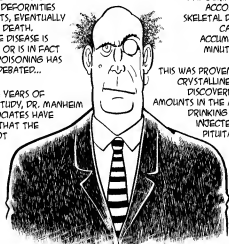


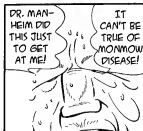
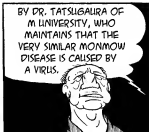
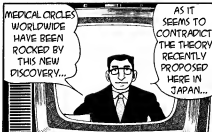
LIKE MONMOW DISEASE, THE CONDITION CAUSES ANIMAL-LIKE DEFORMITIES IN ITS PATIENTS, EVENTUALLY RESULTING IN DEATH. WHETHER THE DISEASE IS CONTAGIOUS OR IS IN FACT A FORM OF POISONING HAS LONG BEEN DEBATED...

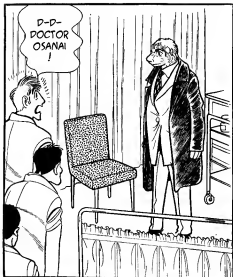
AFTER THREE YEARS OF THOROUGH STUDY, DR. MANHEIM AND HIS ASSOCIATES HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE DISEASE IS NOT INFECTIOUS,

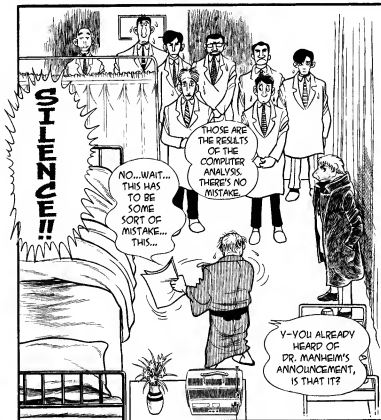
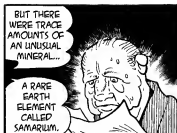
BUT IS INSTEAD A SORT OF ENDOCRINE DISORDER ACCOMPANIED BY SKELETAL DEFORMITIES CAUSED BY AN ACCUMULATION OF MINUTE CRYSTALS.

THIS WAS PROVEN WHEN THE CRYSTALLINE SUBSTANCE DISCOVERED IN TRACE AMOUNTS IN THE ABORIGINES' DRINKING WATER WAS INJECTED INTO THE PITUITARY GLANDS OF SEVERAL ANIMAL SPECIES.



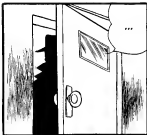


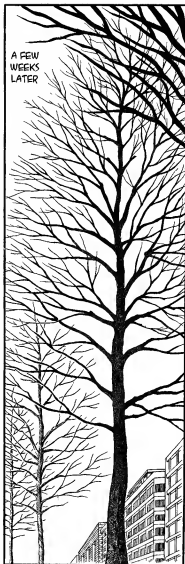






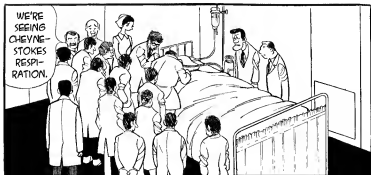




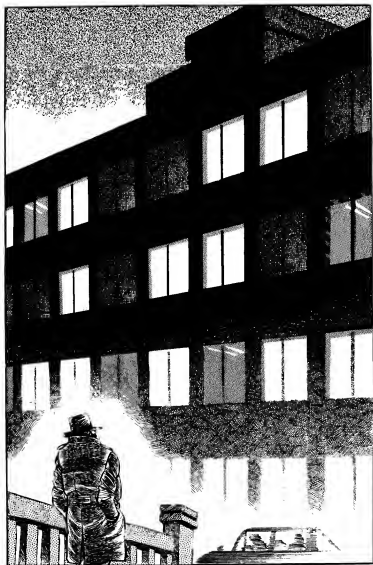


AS
LEAVES
FALL
FROM
A
TREE,

THE
DIRECTOR
FELL
INTO
A
COMA...

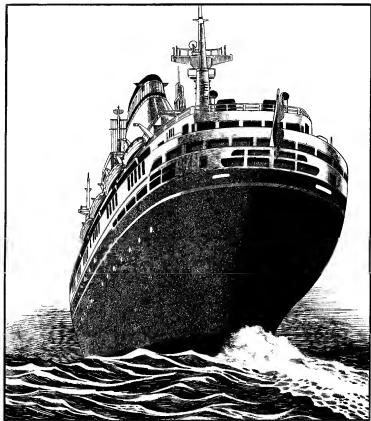


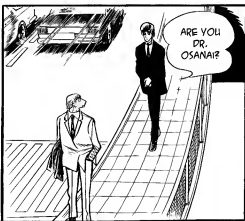
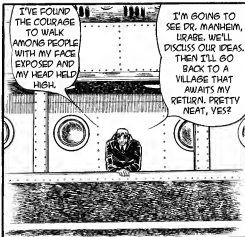


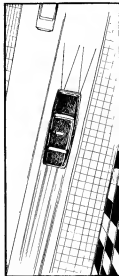


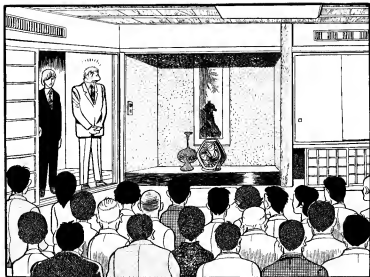
CHAPTER 20

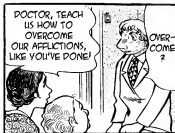
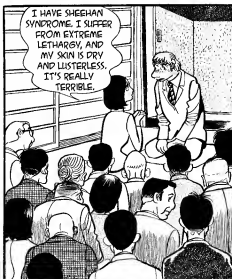
PROGNOSIS

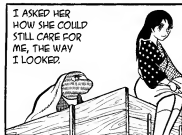












AND ONCE, WHEN
I WAS LOST IN THE
WILDERNESS, THERE
WAS A WOMAN
WITH ME
NAMED REIKA.

WE FOUND
A DYING BABY IN
THE DESERT.

IT WAS JUST THREE DAYS
OLD. THERE WAS NOTHING
WE COULD DO FOR IT.
I FELT THAT THE
MOST MERCIFUL
THING WOULD BE
TO KILL IT.

I WAS ABOUT TO
STRANGLE IT.



REIKA ASKED ME
WHY AND I TOLD
HER IT WAS GOING
TO DIE ANYWAY.



"BUT IT'S FIGHTING
SO HARD TO
STAY ALIVE!"
SHE SAID.



I WAS SO ASHAMED.
LATER, SHE DIED
IN AN ACCIDENT,
BUT I NEVER AGAIN
CONSIDERED
ENDING MY LIFE.



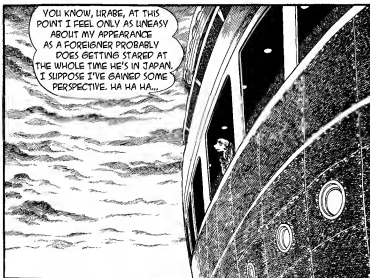
I'M
SORRY. I
MUST BE
BORING
YOU.

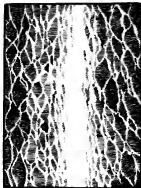
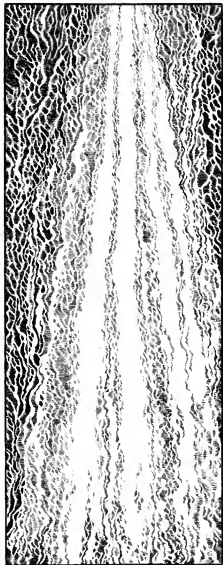


NOT
AT ALL,
THOSE
ARE FINE
STORIES.

HOW DO
YOU FEEL
ABOUT
YOUR-
SELF
NOW?



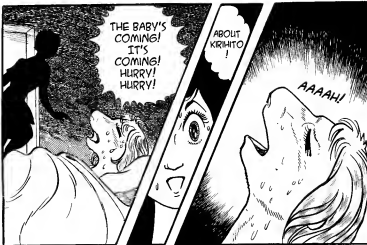






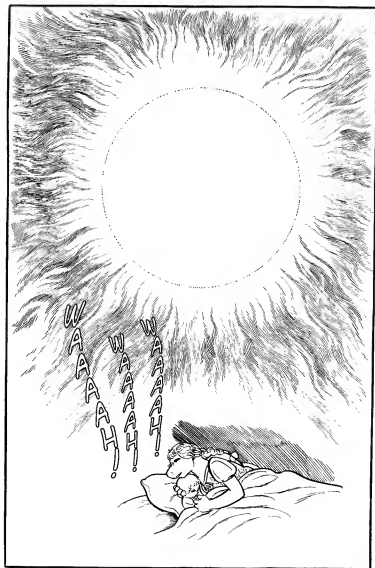






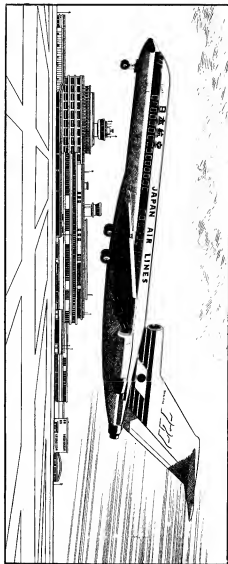
WAAAAAH--!













IZUMI SET OFF
TO DISTANT LANDS
TO FIND KIRIHITO...

WHAT WAS THE FUTURE
FOR THE TWO TO BE?
PERHAPS
THE PAGES OF
ANOTHER TALE.



THE END

